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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Appeals to Turkey on Euphrates Cutoff

JN1801193590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 18 Jan (INA)—The official spokesman for the Arab League General Secretariat issued a statement here today on the cutoff of the Euphrates water from Iraq and Syria. The Arab League statement says:

The decision adopted by the Turkish Government that was implemented on 13 January—the decision to cut off the Euphrates water from its two Arab neighbors—is detrimental to both Syria and Iraq. The two countries, Syria and Iraq, possess historic, inalienable rights to the river in accordance with the provisions of international law. This measure needed consultations and the conclusion of an agreement among the states that share the river. The adoption of such a decision by one side is not justified simply because the Euphrates originates in Turkish territory.

The Arab League, which always endeavors to reinforce Arab-Turkish relations and which is interested in continuously bettering these relations, hopes that the Turkish Government will reconsider its decision by reducing the cutoff period and reviewing the quantity of water it releases during the period of filling [the Ataturk Dam].

The Arab League also hopes that an agreement will be reached between Turkey and its Arab neighbors based on the provisions of international law to reinforce relations of cooperation and fraternity between Turkey and the rest of the Arab countries.

ACC Members Approve Cooperation Accords

LD1801124290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0701 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 18 (KUNA)—Ministerial Committee of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) approved here 11 cooperation agreements between the ACC states in science, technology, industry and tourism. Iraqi Vice-Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan Wednesday [17 January] said these accords would be presented to the ACC summit due to be held next February in Amman to approve and implement them.

He said, the committee also tackled coordination among the four countries in Arab and international organizations.

The previous ACC summit was held in North Yemen last September in which 16 agreements were approved by the ACC leaders in economic cooperation fields.

The ACC, which was founded in February last year, groups Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt and Iraq.

Arab Satellite Communication Session Ends

LD1601233390 Kuwait KUNA in English 2005 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, Jan 16 (KUNA)—The Arab Organization for Satellite Communications ended here today its first session.

Oman's Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Ahmad Bin-Suwaydan al-Balushi told reporters following the meeting that a proposal to convert Arabsat into a private company was premature, saying such a move requires Arab financial support and launching of satellites before the conversion.

Al-Balushi said the eight-member Ministerial Committee would review offers for launching the third Arab satellite.

Communication ministers of Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria and Morocco are taking part in the meeting in addition to representatives of the Iraqi and Jordanian ministers.

PRC 'Likely' Site for Arabsat Satellite Launch

LD1801133790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1142 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Paris, Jan 18 (KUNA)—The Arab authority for satellite communication, Arabsat, will likely choose China to launch its third satellite into space, industrial sources said here Thursday.

The sources told the Kuwait News Agency that the Chinese offer for launching the missile is "economically wise" for the Arab group, saying it would cost the third of what the European consortium, Arianespace, would charge.

Arianspace, the sources said, normally charges about 100 million dollars for launching a rocket carrying commercial satellites and placing them in space.

The third Arab orbiter, Arabsat-3, was manufactured by the French space group, Aerospatiale, and is now waiting for the launching decision.

An Arab eight member ministerial committee concluded meetings in Oman yesterday after discussing, among a host of issues, the tenders given by China and the European consortium for launching the satellite.

The two other Arab satellites, also manufactured by Aerospatiale were launched in the mid 1980's by Arianespace and a U.S. space site.

Organization for Industry, Mining Established

LD1801153190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1258 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 18 (KUNA)—Trade and Industry Minister Faysal 'Abd-al-Razak al-Khalid returned home after presiding over the extraordinary session of the

council of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad during 16-17 January.

Al-Khalid told reporters that the meeting endorsed amendments on the organization's agreement and its budget, indicating an increase of $455,000 in the new budget to face additional activities.

He said the Baghdad meeting also approved the establishment of an Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining through incorporating the Arab Organization for Specifications and Measurements with the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources. He explained that the move was in line with the strategy of joint Arab action.

The minister said the secretariat general of the mother organization was assigned to work out administrative and legislative regulations for the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining. He said the general assembly of the organization would meet next June in Egypt.

Maghreb Countries Open Meeting on Human Resources

LD1801153890 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Casablanca, Jan. 18 (MAP)—A symposium on "economic and social reforms and the development of human resources in the Maghreban countries" opened Wednesday afternoon in Casablanca. The three-day gathering is being attended by officials, scholars, and directors of research and training institutes in the five Maghreban countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania).

Themes topping the agenda include lengthy reports on [national experiences in socio-economic reforms and staff training in UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] countries", "the issue of staff training in the prospect of UMA construction" and "Maghreban integration and training needs." The symposium, placed under the patronage of the secretariat of state to foreign affairs in charge of UMA affairs, is sponsored by the Maghreban Economic and Social Observatory (OESMA) in collaboration with UNESCO and the Moroccan Ministry of National Education.

In his opening address, Moroccan Foreign Secretary of State in charge of UMA affairs Driss Alaoui M'Daghri praised OESMA's initiative to sponsor the gathering. He said the symposium offers an opportunity for an enriching exchange of data and experiences among Maghreban officials and scholars on socio-economic reforms and the necessary effort of staff training that should accompany them.

M'Daghri urged participants to focus their analyses on UMA's action in the economic, cultural and educational fields. He particularly stressed the need for Maghreban economists to come up with new analytic approaches compatible with both the region's needs and the rapid scientific and technological developments in the world.

Concerning UMA's effo.ts in matters of staff training, M'Daghri said measures have been taken in the context of UMA's specialized commissions, mainly those on education, culture and information, and on human resources. Other moves in this sense, he added, include the impending creation of scientific research and teachers' exchange networks in the five Maghreban countries.

OAU Official Interviewed on Mideast Issues

PM0401161390 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 11

[Interview with OAU "Secretary" Salim Ahmed Salim by Muhammad Basyuni in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Basyuni] What did you deal with at your meetings with President Husni Mubarak and political leaders in Egypt?

[Salim] We discussed several issues, most importantly the conflicts in Africa, development problems, Arab-African cooperation and its forms, and the debt problem. President Mubarak expressed his satisfaction at the results of the elections in Namibia and SWAPO's winning of an absolute majority. He emphasized that the OAU must maintain a strong link with developments in Namibia and continue to support the Namibian people until they achieve their independence. [passage omitted]

[Basyuni] News agencies reported the news about nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa. So where is the growing relationship between the racist Zionist and South African entities heading, and what is the organization's position?

[Salim] The OAU has always adopted a stand opposed to all forms of cooperation between the Israeli and South African authorities, especially in the military field. Recent reports have confirmed the existence of cooperation between them in the nuclear field. And we are following this growing relationship with concern. The organization issued a statement expressing our conspicuous concern about and objection to what is happening. And I expect the nuclear cooperation between the two countries to fail, because it is aimed against the world tendency toward stability, peace, and nuclear disarmament. The peoples and governments of the continent expressed their rejection of that cooperation, which threatens not only the people's stability in South Africa, but the entire continent.

[Basyuni] Are foreign powers promoting their own interests in Africa? And to what extent does the OAU allow the existence of active foreign powers in the continent?

[Salim] Africa is not an isolated island, so there are numerous powers active in it. Africans and non-Africans are deeply involved in the continent. The Americans too

are involved in the continent's events. As far as we are concerned, the important point is Africa's interests. We support and encourage foreign interference in the continent's affairs if it is bound to help African efforts to resolve the problems. Any activity by the superpowers to bolster the African position and the organization's position is regarded as a kind of additional backing for our efforts. But we are opposed to any superpower activity hampering the achievement of the Africans' hopes and restricting OAU activities. [passage omitted]

[Basyuni] What is the organization's position on current developments in the Sudanese issue and the rebel movement in south Sudan?

[Salim] So far the organization has not dealt with Sudan's problems. What I can say is that the general feeling in Africa is that the conflict in Sudan must end and be settled within the framework of the negotiations working for the sake of Sudanese territorial integrity, which is important not only to Sudan but to the continent as a whole. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Al-Najjab on Syria Ties, U.S. Stance

JN1801154490 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Jan 90 pp 1, 16

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has stated serious, discreet efforts are under way to normalize Syrian-Palestinian ties, considering the importance of coordinating Arab positions to expedite a five-member Arab committee meeting on convening an international peace conference, namely between Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon.

In statements to AL-BAYAN, Al-Najjab expressed the belief restoration of diplomatic ties between Syria and Egypt will help convene a meeting of the five-member committee. He added this will have a profound impact on advancing preparations for conducting an international peace conference after the loopholes in the Arab stand are eliminated and a unified Arab position is attained.

When asked about reports there is a tendency toward upgrading the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the Palestinian official said the United States seeks to lower the level of contacts and confine them to consultations, which mostly are requested by the Palestinian side.

Al-Najjab considered the fact no official dialogue sessions have been conducted in the presence of the two delegations during the past 8 months an attempt by the United States to replace direct meetings with Egypt's mediation effort. He added this U.S. move is a step backward and an attempt to evade recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He added this comes into play with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

Al-Najjab said the PLO does not view positively this U.S. evasion, and seeks a direct and upgraded dialogue that would produce a U.S. stand recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and subscribing to convocation of an international peace conference as a framework for a settlement.

The PLO Executive Committee member voiced the conviction "it is too early now" to conduct an extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to discuss and assess the Palestinian peace efforts. He said the PLO Central Council, which is a link between the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee, meets regularly and is authorized to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian political endeavors and guide the leadership with its resolutions, the most recent of which produced an unmistakably clear PLO stance vis-a-vis the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Fatah Official Calls for Check of PLO Tactics

JN1701123290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—A senior official of the mainstream Palestinian movement, Fatah, Tuesday [16 January] urged the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reassess its approach to and options in the peace process and its one-year-old dialogue with the United States.

Intisar al-Wazir, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest faction of the PLO, also called on the PLO leadership to consider convening a Paletine National Council (PNC) session but only after careful deliberations and thorough dialogue among the various factions of the PLO.

"It is time for the leadership to reassess its tactics now that the peace process has reached a deadlock," al-Wazir (Um-Jihad), widow of assassinated PLO military chief Khalil al-Wazir (Abu-Jihad), told the JORDAN TIMES.

"We should remain committed to the Palestinian peace strategy but reconsider our policies and tactics in the light of the Israeli intransigence and American attempts to marginalise the role of the PLO in the peace process," she said.

The call by al-Wazir, the first woman to reach the top echelons of Fatah, comes amid growing internal Palestinian pressure on the leadership to adopt a more hardline position towards Israel and the U.S.

The Fatah official blamed Israel and the U.S. for the deadlock in the peace process, but stressed that one of the main reasons for the stalemate was American backtracking on direct negotiations with the PLO.

"By seeking intermediaries instead of dealing with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people the U.S. weakened the dialogue and prevented it from achieving tangible progress," she said in reference to the emergence of Egypt as the major channel of communications between Washington and the Tunis-based PLO.

Palestinian officials have said that the Egyptian role has replaced the actual direct dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO.

Al-Wazir, who was elected to the Fatah Central Committee last August, urged Washington to restore the direct dialogue.

"The U.S. should reconsider its attitude towards the dialogue and restore its direct contact with the PLO on the basis of the recognition of the organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," she said.

Asked if she supported a call by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader George Habash for an emergency session of the PNC to reconsider the Palestinian peace strategy, she said that any such step should be preceded by extensive inter-PLO dialogue and preparations.

On Tuesday PNC Speaker Shayk 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Say'ih was quoted as saying by the ASSOCIATED PRESS that the PLO might call an extraordinary meeting of the PNC to discuss Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

PLO officials in Amman and Tunis told the JORDAN TIMES that the idea of convening the PNC had not been discussed officially by the leadership but that it had been the focus of internal debate.

They said that the possible convening of the PNC should not necessarily lead to the scrapping of the PLO's peace strategy.

Al-Wazir said that she supported the continuation of the commitment to the peace strategy but favoured a reassessment of the means and tactics. The Fatah official said that any top-level meeting of the PLO leadership should also discuss and review the recent changes in Eastern Europe, particularly the expected influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel. "These are developments that we should seriously study for they are bound to have implications on the Palestinian cause," she said.

She said that PLO's commitment to support the continuation of the intifadah and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people should remain the priority for the PLO.

"Realising a just and durable peace for our people and the region should be understood as a struggle in itself and we should find means and ways of promoting the struggle for a jsut peace," she said.

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Soviet Message

LD1801135890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 18 Jan (SPA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from the Soviet leadership described as being important. The message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, Vladimir Sobchenko, when the Palestinian president received him today. WAFA, which did not reveal the contents of the message, said that the meeting between the two sides discussed the current situation in the Middle East, and the steps needed to push forward the regional peace process. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union and the means for consolidating and developing them.

Qaddumi Welcomes Soviet Upgrade of PLO Status

JN1301075790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 90 p 3

[Report by Sana Atiyeh]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official has welcomed the Soviet Union's decision to upgrade the PLO status to that of an embassy but downplayed Moscow's decision to upgrade ties with Israel.

"This move is an indication that the Soviet Union is dealing with the Palestinian people on the level of a state," Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the PLO, told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview Friday [12 January].

The PLO saw East European countries' recent soft approach towards Israel, Qaddumi said as "an internal affair of 'friendly countries'." He added that the socialist countries stand firmly in supporting Palestinians in their struggle for independence.

"We hope these countries do not change their attitude regarding the Middle East conflict and continue their support for our cause in our just struggle to regain our homeland and establish our independent state," Qaddumi said.

On the expected mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, Qaddumi noted that the Soviet Union had given all Soviets the right to travel freely in accordance with the Vienna agreement on human rights.

"The Soviet Union has given freedom to Jews and non-Jews to move without any restrictions. There are now Soviets leaving and returning to the USSR," he noted.

The democratic changes and developments taking place in the Kingdom enhances the existing good relations between Jordan and the PLO, according to Qaddumi. Qaddumi said that the relationship between Jordan and the PLO has always been distinctive and "on this basis,

and due to the new changes and developments we have been watching, we can say that this is a new era in our relationship and in the political life of Jordan."

He added that the PLO was very pleased to see this change take place, and "the applying of more democratic principles to the political life of Jordan would improve the whole situation and provide more potential for further development in all aspects of life."

Qaddumi arrived in Amman Wednesday [10 January] and held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Upon his arrival, Qaddumi described the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan as a failure because it does not respond to PLO demands.

Qaddumi told the JORDAN TIMES that the Baker plan does not deal with matters of substance. He said it was a plan for "procedural matters," adding that Baker should be "careful" to tackle matters of substance.

"The plan tackles one subject: elections, and without relating and linking elections to the peace process. It also ignores the right of Palestinians to be represented correctly, which is by the PLO—the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Qaddumi said.

The Baker plan gives the Israelis every guarantee and gives nothing to Palestinians regarding representation, he said.

The PLO official added that even the Israeli response to the Baker plan was negative.

"Israeli Foreign Minister (Moshe) Arens sent a message to the United Nations negating the whole thing. And he tries to go further by saying that the PLO is not and will not be a viable negotiating partner; and that the elections should take place in 'Judea and Samaria'—as if he is ignoring us and ignoring the fact that these are Palestinian territories occupied by Israel," Qaddumi noted.

Therefore, he continued, because of Israel's obstinate stand, Baker has failed in his endeavours to bring both the Palestinians and Israelis to the same negotiating table.

Qaddumi said that Israeli and American opposition against PLO participation does not serve the cause of peace, and warned that it would only aggravate tension in the Middle East.

"It might lead to more turmoil and disturbances as a result of Israel's obstinate stand and the biased position of the American administration," he warned.

Qaddumi added that the biased American policy proves that the U.S. is not serious in seeking peace in this part of the world.

He went on to say that despite the face that an overwhelming majority of the UN members have recognised the establishment of an independent Palestinan state, with embassies in more than 90 countries, Israel and the U.S. constantly impose their conditions. He described the two countries as "swimming against the current."

Qaddumi stated that there was, nevertheless, positive developments on the European stand, which he said advocates the necessity for the convening of an international peace conference on the basis of Security Council resolutions, and the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

"The Europeans are ready to make initiatives in order to seek a comprehensive settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the American position stands against any viable endeavours to do anything," he commented.

However, Qaddumi believes that the American and Israeli positions may change in the near future "because the continuation of the Palestinian struggle is squeezing the Israelis and they will be forced to change their position."

The PLO official called on a united Arab position and said a unified stand would pressure the Israeli and American governments. He said that more than financial support was needed in the Palestinian struggle.

"From the Arab World, we need more active international political support in order to pressure and woo the support of other nations to impose sanctions against Israel, and at the same time to pressure the U.S. into changing its position," he said.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Affirms Commitment to Peace

LD1501120890 Algiers APS in English
1006 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 14/1/90 [date as received] (APS)—The political advisor of the president of the Palestinian state, Bassam Abu-Sharif, reaffirmed the PLO attachment to a negotiated solution of the Middle East conflict, by indicating that the Palestinian Central [as received] continues to raise the obstacles hindering the peace process in the region.

"We maintain our commitment to peace in the region. This is why the PLO will carry on its moves, aimed at preparing the way to peace in spite of the intransigence of the Israeli Government which is at present the only obstacle standing towards the opening of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo," Abu-Sharif stated.

Underlining that the PLO peace offensive came from a position of force, Abu-Sharif declared that the Palestinian Central will remain attached to the commitment taken by the Palestinian National Council. However it will not accept the silence observed by certain responsible powers of the world peace in front of the murder of children and youths unarmed [as received] by the Israeli occupying forces. "It is hard to believe that President Bush and the state secretary ignore the details of the bloody repression occuring in the occupied territories",

Abu-Sharif underlined before adding that the Palestinian people wish peace and will carry on their efforts of peace but they know how to defend themselves and fight the occupation.

Views Developments

PM1701162090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Palestinian peace initiative was brought forth by the intifadah's thrust and is continuing. Abu-Sharif was answering a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the PLO's position on developments in the peace process. He said: The PLO is following efforts to push forward the peace process in the Middle East confidently and firmly. The peace initiative launched by President Yasir 'Arafat 13 months ago was based on the Palestine National Council resolutions, which, in turn, were based on the impetus created by our people's intifadah in occupied Palestine.

Anyone who thinks that President Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] initiative came as a result of weakness in the Palestinian position is mistaken. This is because the initiative relied on the power resulting from the large-scale mass resistance against the Israeli occupation. The Palestinian people's energies are exploding in a logical and firm sequence against the Israeli occupation forces, and this will continue until the elimination of the occupation.

The intifadah's next phase, which will occur in 1990, will prove to Shamir and Arens that moderation in our political position by no means reflects weakness in resisting the occupation. We will escalate the resistance. It is we who control matters in our territory, Palestine. The PLO is setting up the necessary institutions to organize the lives and daily affairs of the Palestinian masses. These institutions are an integral part of the Palestinian state's infrastructures. Developments concerning the dialogue can be considered positive and an indication that the forces that perceive the artifice and deception in Shamir's position are increasing.

The meeting to be held in Cairo between the PLO and an Israeli delegation comprising hundreds of Israeli figures will create a breakthrough toward securing the climate necessary for the initiation of the peace process. Shamir's current attempts to evade implementation of the agreement to initiate the proposed dialogue with the PLO are firm proof of his insincerity in his promises to President Bush, and are also proof that Shamir wants to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In view of that he must be totally isolated from the situation created by the Palestinian intifadah—a situation which clearly indicates that the occupation will end, because our intifadah is inseparable from changes being witnessed by the world in the direction of freedom and democracy. We call on the Arab states to intensify their political contacts with the U.S. Administration, especially at these moments when Israel is trying to secure a U.S. position submissive to Tel Aviv's and divorced from what President George Bush himself announced—that is, the need to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Cairo 'Optimistic' About Syria-PLO Mediation

PM1701112490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Improved Chances of Success for Egyptian Mediation Between Syria and the PLO"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo the mediation Egypt recently started between Syria and the PLO currently is concentrated on arranging a visit to Damascus by a large Palestinian delegation comprised of a number of Executive Committee members for conducting talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The sources said there is optimism in Cairo about possibily achieving that step, especially in the light of what they regard a positive indication from Syria, that is, its tacit agreement to the Fatah forces' move in Iqlim al-Tuffah in South Lebanon when they were deployed to disengage Amal and Hizballah fighters.

The sources noted Damascus did not adopt a stance reflecting rejection of that move, which met with a hostile stance from Hizballah. It was the first time Damascus had displayed such tolerance toward a Palestinian military move on such a scale in Lebanon since relations between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships deteriorated in 1983.

Some observers in Cairo believe Syria was informed of the Palestinian move in advance and do not rule out contacts about the move took place between Cairo and Damascus. But at the same time, the move was in the interests of the Syrian-backed Amal Movement, as it appeared right from the start of the fighting in the South that Hizballah was superior to it both militarily and in terms of morale, which is why the Palestinian intervention was essential in order to limit that pro-Iranian party's [Hizballah] expansion at Amal's expense.

The prevailing belief, however, now is that Syria's silence about the Palestinian military deployment in South Lebanon—even if it was associated with a certain circumstantial situation—will help create a better climate for the Egyptian mediation. The significance of the development is that Syria's and the PLO's interests do not always conflict and that there are many areas in which their interests could be brought closer. Observers say the Egyptian mediation could use this aspect to broaden the scope of the potential understanding and reduce the prospects of disagreement which have prevailed between Syria and the PLO during the past 6 years. The importance of the recent development stems from the fact the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is one of the most important unresolved issues facing any

mediation between the two sides, in addition to two other issues which also are undergoing some development:

First: The groups that split from the PLO now are based in Syria and recently experienced a development following the appeal from Khalid al-Fahum—former Palestine National Council speaker—for them to join the PLO. Some of these groups disagreed over the appeal, while others have not yet finalized their position on it.

Second: The disagreement over the political move concerning a settlement of the Palestinian issue. Syria recently has started to change its approach to that move, despite its contined reservations about it. It now is inclined toward giving it a chance until its prospects are clear, trying to influence it by moving closer to it instead of moving away from it or condemning it. The move was part of the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria.

In that context, many observers expect the Egyptian mediation between Syria and the PLO will have a better chance than past ones.

New Islamic Political Youth Group Being Formed

JN1201073690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the formation of a new Palestinian political organization of religious inclination will soon be proclaimed in the occupied Palestinian territories under the name "Youths of Islam-Fatah" [fityan al-islam-fatah] and that its statements and slogans will adopt the acronym "FAS."

Reliable sources have said that Nabulus, Hebron, Gaza, and other cities with religious colleges and institutes will form the popular base for this organization, which will be made up of religious members of strike forces associated with the Fatah Movement. These sources said that in the past few months, contacts took place between those in charge of the new organization and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah to coordinate their positions.

An adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the Occupied Territory Committee confirmed that the Youths of Islam organization belongs to Fatah and that those in charge of the organization have no connections with any foreign party.

Supplement Issued to Intifadah Call No 50

JN0601181290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 90

["Text" of supplement to Call No 50, "Call of the Revolution's Anniversary," issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the occupied territories—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; call, call, call: No voice rises above that of the intifadah; no voice rises above that of the Palestinian people, the people of the intifadah and the PLO.

Supplement to call No 50:

With the beginning of the 26th year of our glorious revolution, we congratulate our people on our Palestinian revolution's anniversary and the new year, which we hope will be a year of unity, strength, continuation, escalation, and development of our people's gigantic intifadah on the road to achieving our objectives of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state under the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative.

O masses of our valiant people, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] extends greetings of appreciation and pride to the great Bishop Dr Desmond Tutu, one of the great strugglers against the hateful racial discrimination in South Africa and the world. It also hails the results of his great visit and his support for our people's national rights. The UNLI also greets the activists of the peace movement, the European and American delegations and the activists of the Israeli peace movement, who suffered with us in the brutal campaigns of repression carried out by the Zionist occupation authorities against the women's demonstration and the peace march around the walls of holy Jerusalem, which exposed the false democracy of occupation.

The UNLI hails our masses, popular organizations, and various national activities, which contributed to the success of the nongovernmental organizations and their solidarity with our people. On behalf of the masses of our Palestinian people and their national, religious, social, and popular national organizations and councils, the UNLI reiterates its welcome of the first U.S. peace advocate, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, to visit the occupied state of Palestine. We hope that the visit will take place soon because this will bolster the massive and world solidarity with our people's struggle for freedom and independence.

O masses of the intifadah, in its supplement, the UNLI confirms what was included in call No 50 to the effect that 5 January is a day during which stores will open until 1700 in honor of Christmas, which is being celebrated by the Christian sects of our people. On this occasion, we reiterate congratulations to our people who are celebrating Christmas.

On 6 January 1990, our masses shall stage a comprehensive strike to express their rejection of the continuation of occupation and their denunciation of the confiscation of religious freedoms, and to call on the world to bolster its support for our people's struggle for liberation, for expelling the occupiers, and for establishing our Pales-

tinian state on our national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Based on this, the coming days of the comprehensive strike will be 6, 9, and 17 January; the mistakes included in our call No 50 were due to a technical failure.

Victory is definitely ours.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Washington Talks

NC1901074090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Washington, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Washington, which ends today, and with the political and economic talks that he and members of the Egyptian delegation have held.

He said that despite the importance of the economic aspect of the talks, priority was given to the political aspect which concerns the peace process. He stressed that there is "common ground" which is the basis for discussion and that there are points of agreement. There are, however, still points of disagreement, he said, and efforts are being made to resolve them.

In press statements, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that with the two sides' acceptance of the five points in James Baker's plan, it can be said that one stage in the peace process has been completed and another stage has begun. In this next stage, he stated, preparations are being made for the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state to hold a tripartite meeting. There will then be a move toward a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which, he said, will be an extremely important achievement when it is held.

The Egyptian official added that no agreement has been reached yet on the date for the tripartite meeting. He stressed here that Egypt will not attend the tripartite meeting unless it feels that there are sufficient elements for its success. He also stressed Egypt knows exactly what its aim from the peace process is and that "it will not accept anything at all that it considers to be unacceptable."

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid is scheduled to hold a third meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker later today before leaving Washington for New York, where he will meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar tomorrow, Saturday.

Egyptian delegation sources have stressed that the meeting which Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and members of the Egyptian delegation held with the IMF director last night was positive and fruitful. They said a meeting will be held today with the chairman of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which will send a team of experts to Cairo next month to continue the negotiations between the bank and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Main Points Detailed

NC1901075290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—In its edition today, AL-AHRAM reports that the talks held by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Washington dealt with a number of important issues and focused on the following points:

1. The U.S. Administration underlined its commitment to give impetus to the peace process. In this respect, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed the U.S. Administration's desire to continue these efforts and to make the other parties proceed with them until positive results are reached.

2. The talks dealt with the two basic points included in the Baker plan: the issue of elections and the negotiating process. In this regard, Egypt stressed its view that the negotiating process on the elections must take into account the 10 points proposed by President Husni Mubarak.

3. The Palestinians played a positive role in the peace process when they declared their acceptance of the Baker plan in the first stage. In light of the several visits Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has made to Cairo, Egyptian-Palestinian coordination has taken place at the highest level. It is evident from this coordination that the Palestinians are determined to continue the peace process "in the second stage." It is also evident that they have shown a large measure of flexibility and a desire to continue the peace process at a quicker pace, although they have not yet presented a list of those comprising the proposed Palestinian delegation to the negotiations.

4. The U.S. Administration explained that it has repeatedly informed Israel of its opposition to the settlement of new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. It has also underlined the U.S. desire to speed up the peace process and maintain the present momentum so that this opportunity will not be missed, particularly as the world is now turning its attention toward what is happening in Eastern Europe and certain Latin American countries.

The U.S. Administration has also warned that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's intransigent stand and the conflicting statements and stands within the Israeli Government are bound to impede the peace efforts.

Regarding the economic aspects of the talks, AL-AHRAM's chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' said that great progress has been made in the negotiations between Egypt and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD]. He said that an IBRD team will arrive in Cairo in early February to put the final touches to the agreement that will be signed by Egypt and the IBRD to strengthen the Egyptian economy in a 3-year program. He added that the Egyptian delegation's talks with the IBRD representatives were very cordial.

'Abd-al-Majid on Ties With Syria, Iraq, Iran

PM1601145290 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 15 Jan 90 pp 18-19

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Hamidah Na'na' in

Paris "on the sidelines of the Arab-European dialogue held 22 December and before the official restoration of ties with Syria"]

[Excerpts] [Na'na'] What did you, Egypt, expect from the Arab-European dialogue, and what do you, the Arab group, expect from it?

['Abd-al-Majid] We welcomed President Mitterrand's call for the Arab-European dialogue, because we know that there are many common interests between the Arab states and Europe. There are also historic relations, a common history, and a common culture. And we must not forget the geographical factor, which makes us close. All this makes the Arab-European dialogue a necessity for both sides. The present meeting may not produce important results, but is certainly a start for a later stage. This start has laid the foundations for economic, cultural, and political cooperation at a stage in which the world is experiencing many changes. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] You proposed the lifting of sanctions on Syria and Libya. Has there been any response to your request from the European states?

['Abd-al-Majid] Since the outset we in Egypt have been very eager to ensure that all the Arab and European states participate in the dialogue so that we can discuss matters very frankly. And we have made efforts to ensure Libya's participation in this meeting.

[Na'na'] What about Syria's participation? Were any contacts made between Egypt and Syria before the Arab-European dialogue to persuade it to take part?

['Abd-al-Majid] I do not know. But I do know that President Husni Mubarak spoke about that subject. And I personally sent a message to the Syrian foreign minister. True, there are differences between us and Europe, but disagreement does not prevent dialogue. And I hope that this will be the rule between us.

[Na'na'] An observer would note that there have been rapid steps toward rapprochement between you and Syria. Will this be at the expense of other Arab states in the region?

['Abd-al-Majid] Obviously, not all that is published or said about Syrian-Egyptian relations is necessarily true. President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with President Mubarak at the Islamic conference in Kuwait was positive. True, it was a public meeting among the leaders, but it was very useful. There are ties binding the two presidents. There is friendship and comradeship-in-arms.

With regard to recent developments between us and Syria, I would like here to note that President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the newspaper AL-QABAS was positive; it greatly impressed President Husni Mubarak, and prompted him to contact President al-Asad by telephone to thank him for the positive orientations toward Egypt which he mentioned in his interview. Then contacts were made to reopen the Cairo-Damascus air route. That was preceded by the suspension of media campaigns and by Egyptian-Syrian meetings, not at the official level, but at the popular level. The most recent of these meeting was the Syrian foreign [as published] minister's visit on the occasion of the Arab interior ministers' conference. I mean there was an atmosphere of pacification and an effort to eliminate any tension. That was what led to recent developments. We have always said that there is no hostility between us and Syria, but there are differences. I say once again: If there are differences, let us talk, reach an understanding, and understand one another's position. I am not requesting Syria to agree to the Egyptian viewpoint. Nor should Syria request us to agree to its viewpoint. But we must hold a civilized dialogue in order to establish common ground for the sake of an understanding.

[Na'na'] Egypt has for some time played a role in the Palestinian issue: It is the link between the Palestinians and Israel and an interlocutor acceptable to the United States. In a few days you are expected to meet with the Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state. May we know what is going on and whether you believe it will produce any results?

['Abd-al-Majid] No date has been set for a meeting between me and the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister. As to whether our contacts will achieve any results, that is difficult to predict. But we must work and cooperate with the PLO, which is happening now: There is coordination and cooperation between us and the PLO and between us and some Arab states regarding the peace initiative. President Mubarak is totally convinced of the need to achieve peace as well as the need for the Palestinian people to obtain their rights in full—which is what prompted the Egyptian move and Egyptian-Palestinian coordination. It is clear that Egypt is not alone in that process. We are doing what is dictated by our pan-Arab duty. We are trying to boost the peace process in order to make Israel understand that that situation cannot continue and that changes have occurred in the region: first and foremost, the Palestinian intifadah, which has changed the balance completely. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Can Cairo host the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes.

[Na'na'] Where does Syria fit in all this?

['Abd-al-Majid] No contacts have been made in that regard. But that could happen; there is nothing to prevent it.

[Na'na'] Do you believe, in view of recent international developments and the results of the Soviet position, that the international conference idea is still valid; that is, an international conference at which a just solution to the Palestinian issue and in the Palestinian people's favor would be secured?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes, the international conference is in the cards more than ever before. During President

Mubarak's visit to the United States, President George Bush said: We are for the convening of the international conference provided it is based on sound foundations and convened at the right time. What does that mean? It means that the international conference is one of the matters being raised. But it is maybe too early to talk about the international conference now. We insist on the convening of the international conference, because it is one of the methods of resolving the Palestinian question, especially if peace is achieved.

[Na'na'] Does that mean that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to be hosted in Cairo will not be an alternative to the conference?

['Abd-al-Majid] No. It will a preparation for the international conference.

[Na'na'] What about the issue of the Egyptian workers in Iraq? There has been a great clamor in the media on that subject. Can we say that the storm between the two countries has ended, or does it still have an impact on relations?

['Abd-al-Majid] I will be frank: The crisis has passed, and the two leaderships have tried to contain the matter. There were mistakes on both sides. Let us be frank, and not dismiss this: It would be a good for us always to learn from our mistakes. The thing which affected the Egyptians most was the suspension of remittances. The remittances from Egyptians working in Iraq were not transferred to them and the crisis started as a result. This is in addition to some of the attitudes that led to what happened. But there was a desire on both sides—President Saddam Husayn and President Husni Mubarak—to contain the issue. True, there was a media uproar over the issue because Egypt does not put pressure on its media—as we have no censorship of the press, which is why every journalist wrote what he wanted—but I consider that the matter has ended. Relations between Egypt and Iraq are strategic. Egypt's stance toward Iraq at the height of Egyptian-Iraqi differences is proof of that. We must under no circumstances imagine that relations between the two countries could be affected by this. This is because when there was an imminent Iranian threat to Iraq, Egypt resolutely supported Iraq.

[Na'na'] There is a feeling that the whole thing was hatched with a view to harming Iraqi-Egyptian relations?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must overcome everything and not to allow any exploitation attempts to occur again.

[Na'na'] Since you are in charge of Egyptian diplomacy and live in the heart of the region's events, do you believe that peace prospects between Iraq and Iran us are better now?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that earnest efforts are being made by the UN secretary general. I also believe that Iran has a desire. [sentence as published] According to my information, Iran is now offering a new agreement on the release of the POW's. If that is true, it means that Iran has started to act wisely and reasonably. We hope that this is true.

[Na'na'] What about the Egyptian POW's? Will they be released through negotiation with Egypt or with Iraq?

['Abd-al-Majid] With Iraq, like the Iraqi POW's.

Libyan Planning Minister Continues Cairo Visit

Accord on Agriculture, Industry

JN1801213590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Egypt and Libya have agreed to draw up a joint plan with defined strategies focusing on agriculture and industry. The plan provides for a settlement of Egyptian farmers to cultivate 2 million hectares in Libya's southern valleys. The plan calls for Egyptian participation in the artificial river which carries water from the Sabha area in southern Libya to Tripoli and for utilizaiton of the ground water of the lake [as published] located between Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. The plan also calls for giving a greater role to the Egyptian contracting companies in construction operations in Libya and for supporting Libya's industrial projects such as the iron and steel and petrochemicals projects, as well as oil processing before exportation.

This was announced by Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning (planning minister), currently visiting Cairo. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Planned

NC1801163390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah today signed an agreement to establish a joint ministerial committee for development planning. The agreement was signed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and Muhammad Farhat, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Planning.

The ministerial committee, which will be assisted by a panel of experts, is charged with coordinating the two countries' development programs. The committee will also study future prospects in light of available resources to guarantee the optimal utilization of positive aspects and overcome negative ones.

The two sides have agreed to steer cooperation efforts in the direction of agriculture, industry, and integration.

The Libyan delegation arrived in Cairo last Sunday.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1801223290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2209 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Planning, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo today for Tripoli after a 5-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Returns From Libya

NC1801204490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1939 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo this evening from Tripoli following a 4-day visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. While there, he attended the meetings of the regular session of the Council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Agricultural Forum

LD1801110690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2035 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the opening session of the Arab Agricultural Development Organization meeting in Tripoli on 16 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear brothers, I welcome you indeed in your country, among your kinfolks. [passage omitted] The whole world considers the EEC a giant step for this group, which has influenced international politics. We blame ourselves, we the Arabs, for not having followed the example of Europe, although Europe is not homogeneous like us. We are one people. Europe is not one people, it is a collection of nations, which do not even speak in one language. [passage omitted]

What I want to draw attention to is that we through the Arab League, we did things similar to the EEC and Western Europe, and even perhaps more in some aspects—I mean legislation, structures—they exist. Our meeting today is a specialist council at the level of the Arab homeland, for agriculture. [passage omitted]

In general, the Arab reality was definitely the thing which led to the non-implementation of all that we agreed on in the Arab League. The Arab reality, is known to you—that we Arabs lack some objective things internally. However, the Arab reality is also affected by external events; that is, hostile interferences. These affect our action and our efficiency. I mentioned several times publicly, and this is no more a secret, that when we drafted a unionist constitution between Libya and Algeria, 2 years ago, the United States issued an official communique saying that it was not possible for unity between Algeria and Libya to take place because that threatened the interests of the West including those of the United States itself.

We should all know this. I know that there is nobody among us... [changes thought] I personally contacted brother President Chadli Bendjedid by telephone. I asked him: Have you heard the statement made by the United States? He said: No, I have not. I told him: How come the Americans said unity between Algeria and Libya should not take place because this represents a threat against the interests of the West in general, and those of the United States in particular in the region? President Chadli Bendjedid himself did not know about this statement. He told me: I have not heard it, and one should not attach any importance to what they might decide about our fate, or about their various statements.

In reality, the West has had an influence. No unity has taken place so far among the Arabs. This unity was to have materialized 3 years ago. Every time we agree on 1 November as the date for this unity to take place, there have been several postponements up to this very day. In fact, there is foreign interference that prevented the establishment of this unity. A number of problems emerged in Algeria, which you have all heard about. These problems occurred before appropriate circles met to draw up executive steps for the referendum, etc. Some internal problems surfaced in Algeria, and officials there told us: Please excuse us because now we cannot do anything.

I think that this in fact means that the West does practice what they preach. This is a hostile and determined force, and in particular, the United States as an imperialist power is adament to prevent the Arabs from becoming a power. What I mean here, as an example, is that the Arab reality is affected by all interventions that are aimed at paralyzing our military, economic, and political potential. These are practical conditions left over by colonialism, underdevelopment, and the tribal and sectarian reality, and struggle for leadership, in addition to the hostile interference. All this leads to the fact that what we do not implement what we have decided. We have agreed on a union between Libya and Algeria, but we did not implement this decision. Why? Because there is foreign intervention and there are regional and internal elements that contributed toward this. These elements did not confront challenge with challenge.

This is exactly what happened inside the Arab League. When we refer to the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, or Industrial Organization, or an Arab common market, we have nevertheless implemented this.

The other side has free will, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it is not subjected to external and hostile interventions that may undermine it like the interventions directed against us. This means that we Arabs have no ability, or to justify ourselves, we have no desire to

intervene in the affairs of Europe and prevent it from setting up its unity. We have never met, at the level of foreign affairs ministers, for example, or as presidents or even Arab intelligence services, and said that we should intervene to prevent the establishment of European unity.

However, if we Arabs decide to set up Arab unity, the West meets and decides to intervene against the emergence of such unity.

It is definite that the Arabs cannot and will not coalesce to obstruct European unity and say that it is a danger we must eliminate, and that the Europeans must remain weak and should not be allowed to unite. No one has said this, and it has never occurred to anyone to make proposals to this effect. But when we meet to decide on uniting, the enemy apparatuses immediately meet the following day and decide on counteraction and intervention, and then they begin their interventions. Otherwise, what is the reason behind the fact that we did not establish the Arab Economic Community, and implement all these agreements? All these specialized councils, and structures which we have set up—why did they not work effectively? Had this been done, our situation would have been different. [passage omitted]

There is now a possibility to bring us down by starving us. The United States is renewing its economic boycott against Libya every year. Recently, the new U.S. President announced the extension of the boycott against Libya for 1 year. Why? Because he wants Libya to yield Why should it? Did it take one of your states from you? Why? Is it the Soviet Union?

It is known that any serious effort or initiative which will unite the nation or incite it to unity will be silenced by them. Maybe we are not able to unite you but we will incite you to unity, and this is the role which we have always played.

If you succeed in food production, this means you have become independent. This is independence. Napoleon as a military man was accredited with saying that armies march on their stomachs. This does not mean that they creep on their stomachs. No, it means that no army can fight on an empty stomach. [passage omitted]

He meant that military power stems from economic power, from food. Even industry, successful industry, you know better, is the one which comes after agriculture. We cultivate the land and then establish agricultural industries, and we begin to develop them until we reach engineering and heavy industry. The one who begins with heavy industries or begins with industry and ignores agriculture, this a false jump, and he loses. All the countries and the programs which failed, even in the Arab homeland, failed because of this reason. [passage omitted]

Thus you are trusted with and indeed responsible for the most serious field, the most important field. I do not want this meeting. It should lead to practical matters. I believe that European unity is the biggest provocation for us, and thank God that there is one who is provoking us. We should exploit this provocation and use it to our benefit. With it they are trying to undermine our resolve, but we should try to strengthen our will with it. Since there is provocation, we should rise to the challenge. [passage omitted] You should take practical measures for the common interests of the Arabs.

The leaders depend on you. They believe that there is a specialist council, like this organization for Arab agricultural development. It meets every year, it is operating. Why did you not work? You the leaders object; no, they do not object. Had they objected, they would not have agreed to the birth of this organization. [passage omitted]

When I saw the organization's file, I saw no implementation apparatus to carry out the resolutions. All right, you carry out many good studies, valuable studies and efforts carried out by experts at your instructions, and this is fine. But they are like classical works: on the shelf. They need someone to take them off the shelf and implement them. [passage omitted]

You have the figures, the area of agricultural land, water, the needs. What is frightening is that according to your statistics, every year the need for food in the Arab homeland grows, the population grows and production decreases. This will lead us to a catastrophe in the end. Statistics say that the number of Arabs in the year 2000 will approach 300 million. Production will not be sufficient to feed the 300 million. The need grows. You face this, you face it at the practical level. You should tell us how to exploit the land, water, people, money and all these capabilities in order to confront these needs. [passage omitted]

You face historic responsibilities. I do not think that we are so insensitive as to see Europe unite while we cannot do something similar. The world is uniting. It is separating at the national level and uniting at the economic level. [passage omitted] Italy, whose national income is greater than that of the whole Arab nation, sees itself able to go it alone in this world from now on only in the future of European unity. This means that there is no hope in the future for midget and paper statelets. It is indeed funny: Libya, Mauritania or Kuwait, what are they worth? They are a drop in the sea in today's world. [passage omitted] The practical point that I would like, God willing, to be issued by your meeting is the setting up of practical executive mechanisms which implement all the studies you will have done and all the agreements you will have reached in this field, that of agriculture.

The second point is the Arab potentials. You should set up a formula that will make them united potentials, not regional ones, that is, consider the Libyan oil as belonging to Sudan, the Sudanese water as belonging to Libya, the people in Egypt as belonging to Mauritania, the Tigris and Euphrates, which are now endangered, as belonging to all the Arabs, the Nile as belonging to all the

Arabs, and the oil as belonging to all the Arabs. In Saudi Arabia, there is no water, but there is oil. How can we work to put together water with land, people, and oil in the pan-Arab action that will provide food for the Arab citizen? This is what you should dwell upon and discuss. [passage omitted]

You are an executive council, and you must take practical measures, which should be submitted to... [pauses] and if they are not submitted to anyone, you implement them. Whenever I asked any Arab ruler during the last 20 years why do we not do this or that, he tells me: Brother, we have set up councils and agreements. All these things exist. So what is wrong? He says: I really do not know, I wonder like you. This means that you are responsible for this. That is true. So carry out these practical measures. [passage omitted]

The rivers in the Arab world do not originate within the Arab homeland. The Nile originates outside the Arab world. The Tigris and Euphrates originate outside the Arab world too. Local Arab waters—the local rivers—are the Jordan, Yarmuk, Litani and al-Asi. The battle now going on in what is called the Middle East has a covert and fundamental aim—to control these waters; it has nothing to do with fedayeen operation, or bomb explosions, and so on. Not at all. The battle is a battle for water. Now the Israelis are waging a battle to control the local waters in the Middle East. It is not a deterrent battle; it is not a battle whose aim is to put an end to the Palestinian resistance; it is not because a Palestinian detonated something, or did something or kidnapped someone. Not at all. Now they have curtailed the use the Jordan River, from the Arab point of view. They are exploiting the river now. The Litani River is now under occupation; they are exploiting it. It is quite clear and we should draw attention to this. Nobody has ever told me that the battle is a battle for the waters. Why did the Jews occupy the Litani River? It was said that the occupation was because the river falls within their security belt. Why do they need a security belt? The claim was that they needed the security belt in order to stop the fedayeen, and so on. Not at all; this is not the issue. The Israelis can strike at the fedayeen or at the Arabs everywhere within the Arab world, and they can do that now with the help of American and Western forces placed at their disposal.

With the American and Western powers put at their disposal the Israelis can strike at any fedayeen camp or Arab army camp without occupying any land. But the question is that as the years pass, this region will be emptied of the Arabs and will come under Israeli control until the Jews emigrating from various parts of the world come to occupy these zones. The battle now taking place between us and the Israelis is a battle for the control of the local Arab waters because these are the only waters which have their source in the Arab land, such as the Jordan River and the other surrounding rivers which I have already mentioned. These are Arab rivers and the want to deprive us of them. If they deprive us of water, we will die. They know the study which has been undertaken on this. They know that the machines that are manufactured for us in the West and are brought to us in the oases will eventually lead to the destruction of these oases. They also know that rain is scarce in the Arab homeland, that the rivers come from outside, and that there are local rivers of which they must deprive us.

I have told the Arabs that our lives are at risk if we live off the rivers that take their source outside the Arab homeland because these rivers are threatened. This has indeed become clear now. Now there is a major problem facing Syria and Iraq with Turkey as the Ataturk Dam takes in the waters and cuts them off, God knows how, from Syria and Iraq. As a result, Syria and Iraq are facing a critical situation because the sources of the rivers passing through them are not in our hands but are in the hands of a foreign state. There is a similar situation with the Nile River. Now the Israelis are concentrating—no, not just now—I mean that the Zionist policy is aimed controlling the sources of the Nile River. The regimes that are established in that area must always be pro-Zionist to enable the Israelis to control the Nile source, including the Ethiopian plateau and Lake Victoria in Uganda where the Nile begins. They are determined, generation after generation, to control this area in order to destroy Sudan and Egypt in any new confrontation.

The Israelis might say that Egypt has recognized them and signed the Camp David accords, and so on. However, the Israelis know full well that the danger will one day come from Egypt. They consider all these things as temporary, therefore they proceed from the assumption that their biggest enemy is Egypt and that the latter must be brought to its knees. They are doing everything they can to turn Egypt into a weak country unable to withstand a confrontation and join the battle against them. Therefore they would like to deprive it of...[changes thought] Now there is a dam that will take 60 percent of the Nile waters; it is being built in Ethiopia with the help of the Israelis and the Americans. This is the start of the strangulation of Egypt and Sudan.

Have no doubt about it, the enemy will have no mercy on us. They are manufacturing bacteriological bombs, nuclear missiles, and chemical bombs and they are cutting off water from us. They will kill us en masse. So what? Why should they not kill us en masse? Do you think that the Israelis are now showing mercy for us? They could not care less about you. That is the truth. The Jews and the Christians will not be satisfied with you until you convert to their faith, in other words until you submit to them and become a member of their religion. They will never accept us. It is not a question of human rights or whatever they are saying, not at all. These are only excuses. They talk about terrorism and so on. This has nothing to do with it. They want us to submit to them. They cannot accept that the Arabs and the Berbers, who are, in their view, backward, should control the rivers, the Suez Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar, Bab-al-Mandab, the Strait of Hormuz, the oil, the Ka'bah, al-Madinah, and Jerusalem. They begrudge us all this. They say we should not be allowed to control all this. How can they take these things away from us? When we

are weak, how do we become weak? They take food away from us, and it is the food problem about which we are now meeting to find ways to face up to the problem.

We began to swear at Somalia because it sought help from America. If the Arabs neglected Somalia and Somalia began to suffer famine it would even seek help from the devil. Mauritania, for example, seeks help from America or from someone else. If we neglect Mauritania and Mauritania suffers famine, what do we expect? Djibouti sought help from France; why not, if you Arabs neglect Djibouti? These issues are no longer secrets—the enemy knows that. We used to send aircraft laden with arms to Nicaragua when Nicaragua used to fight Somoza. The aircraft used to land in Mauritania for refuelling and then proceed to unload over there to supply the weapons to the Nicaraguan revolutionaries. Mauritania—during the reigns of former heads of state, not now—and when I speak about America I mean America during the time of former presidents and not now—told us that the aircraft were no longer allowed to refuel. The then poor president of Mauritania told me: Brother, the Americans are aware of this flight path and told me either you ban the Libyans from passing through Mauritania or we shall stop aid and wheat supplies to you. He said: Look at my situation. Do you prefer your aircraft to fly to Nicaragua from here or do you prefer the Mauritanian people here to die as a result of the lack of aid? I told him: No, as long as they give you wheat or flour go ahead with the ban on our aircraft; we will make arrangements on how to deal with this issue. I do not consider him to be a traitor. I considered him to be a wretched and helpless man. When he allowed our aircraft to refuel in his country he opened his airports to us; but when they pressured him he became helpless; this was not treason. He was compelled; he was under pressure because of his situation. [passage omitted]

The rivers are now threatened. It is inevitable that we should confront these dangers. When I delivered several lectures I did not only (?ask the questions). As I see it, the very rich area in the Arab homeland is the Horn of Africa. Naturally, when we talk about the Horn of Africa we see that there is a one-Arab state in the middle of it—Ethiopia. This state is non-Arab now but the Ethiopians were originally Arabs. The Amharics originated from the Amharic tribe in Yemen. If Somalia and Djibouti are Arab, then Ethiopia is also Arab; if Eritrea is Arab, then this means that Ethiopia is Arab. But in Ethiopia there are other races which make it a multiracial country. The word Habasha [Arabic name for Ethiopia] means multiracial. In the future the Arab influences should prevail so that Ethiopia will become an Arab state. This is because the area is the only rich area: Somalia, southern Sudan, and Ethiopia. This is the region that will determine the future of the entire Arab homeland. The food is here; the water is here. [passage omitted]

Why is there a conflict in southern Sudan and a conflict in the Horn of Africa? It is to deprive the Arabs of this rich region. The movement in southern Sudan which is called Anyanya—the word, as I have told you before, means a poisonous insect—has been created in order to swallow up southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

When Idi Amin was in power, we were supporting him. The Arabs wondered: How could you support Idi Amin, he is a dictator, and he toppled the revolutionary socialist regime of Milton Obote? First of all, Idi Amin is a Mulsim. Fine. But even apart from that, we found that Milton Obote, that progressive socialist, surrendered all Uganda to the Israelis. But Idi Amin, in spite of the fact that he was said to be a dictator or whatever, expelled the Israelis and cleaned up Uganda. The Israelis are concentrating on Lake Victoria and the sources of the Nile River. We carried out a pan-Arab action for the sake of Sudan, for the sake of Egypt, for the sake of Palestine which could be liberated by Egypt or Sudan, and for the sake of the Arab nation because if the Nile were controlled by Israel, then half the population of the Arab homeland would die. We have the largest population concentration in this region, Egypt and Sudan.

We were doing a pan-Arab act. Numayri, who was ruling Sudan then, blocked the movement of Libyan supplies to Uganda. Why did you do that, brother? We were cleaning Uganda from Israeli hands. The airports were in the hands of the Israelis! The agricultural projects were in the hands of the Israelis—the sugar and its plantations in the hands of the Israelis, even its factories! Obote handed all Uganda to the Israelis, and the Israelis concentrated on it, and they wanted to keep it always under their hand so that they would be able to do anything they wanted at one of the sources of the Nile.

They are concentrating on Ethiopia. The resumption of the relations now between Ethiopia and the Zionist enemy comes within the framework of this dangerous plot. Zionism continues to work relentlessly towards establishing a foothold in Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa. Apart from the strategic aspects of Bab al-Mandab, controlling it, not closing it for them and being able to close it for the Arabs, it is also because this region is the region of water, the region of agriculture and the region of food. [passage omitted]

Now the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are threatened. Because of this, I contacted Turkey and told them that I cannot stand aside listening to threats against the lives of two Arab countries. Since Ozal is a friend of ours, he is now preparing an explanation of this matter. But for the sake of this conference, they prepared a memorandum which explains the situation. [passage omitted]

The history of Syrian-Iraqi complaints against Turkish management of the waters goes back to the construction of the two dams of Keban and Karakaya. As soon as Turkey began to build these two reservoirs on the Euphrates a campaign was initiated to prevent their construction. Later both reservoirs became a source of [word indistinct] to both countries. The 1988-89 season was the driest for more than half a century. The flow of the Euphrates at the source was less than 100 cubic

meters per second during the driest periods of the season. Nevertheless, the volume of water passing across the Syrian-Turkish border was at the same time more than 350 cubic meters per second. The reason for the difference was due to the two reservoirs, Keban and Karakaya. If Turkey delivered all the Euphrates water to its neighbors, the annual average would have been 600 cubic meters per second. In the 1988-89 season which was driest during the past 50 years Turkey allowed an average of 828 cubic meters per second to pass to its two neighbours. This means that Turkey delivered 168 cubic meters per second to its two neighbours from its own private reservoirs. Therefore the claim that Turkey is stopping the flow of Arab water is not true and does not reflect the facts of this issue. For centuries the waters of the Euphrates flowed without obstruction through the southeastern part of Turkey. Now Turkey wants—and it has the right—to exploit this vital source of irrigation on a sound basis. The benefits of this will flow to beyond Turkey's border to its two southern neighbors. The development of southeastern Anatolia will activate the economy of the entire region.

Turkey's readiness to work together with its neighbors for the common benefit of all is on record. Despite the fact that international law does not prohibit Turkey's right to exploit the Tigris and the Euphrates whose sources are in its own territory, the Turkish Government has continuously showed a sympathetic attitude towards the interests of both Syria and Iraq in a spirit of friendship and good neighborliness. President Turgut Ozal declared during the ceremony of the storing of waters at the Ataturk Dam reservoir on 13 January 1990 that Turkey does not intend to exploit the question of the water of Euphrates against Syria and Iraq. It is now a more appropriate time for all concerned to realize these facts. All unfounded claims based on non-confidence and fear serve no purpose other than to demolish the possibility of establishing meaningful cooperation in the region.

This is the initial reply. There may be a more detailed reply from the president of the Turkish Republic because I asked him to tell me the facts behind this issue. I mean this is proof that the sources of the water from which we feed are subject to danger at any given moment. We do not know; Turkey may be friendly and its president may be a friend of ours, and so on, but one day it may have an unfriendly regime, and it may be occupied by a hostile power. That would not be the first time for Turkey to fall under occupation. [passage omitted]

As you know this conflcit is now taking place in southern Sudan for this reason. It is also taking place in the east, in what is termed as the Middle East, for the same reason. Now the problem has begun...[changes thought] Therefore we must—so that we do not stay in an impasse—liberate the local waters, such the Jordan River, al-Asi, Yarmuk, Litani, and so on. These rivers must be liberated. The region which has local waters must remain in our hands. We should make all necessary sacrifices, including going to war for this purpose; and let us stop saying this is only for the liberation of Palestine. By God, it is for the liberation of the water we drink. We drink from the Litani River and the enemy is preventing us from doing so. We also drink from the Jordan River and we live off it and use it for our agriculture, but the enemy is preventing us. If there must be a battle, so be it, because if a battle does not start for such a vital thing what would it start for? For a soccer game? Indeed, war broke out between two states in Central America because of a soccer game. One beat the other at soccer and this resulted in war. So if someone takes away the water you drink, how can you not go to war with them? Southern Sudan and the Horn of Africa; which is an Arab horn, are zones of extreme importance and you must realize that because that region must be liberated. It must not fall under the control of any power hostile to the Arab nation, otherwise this nation will perish. The exhaustion of the oases must also end and the machines should stop entering the oases. The oases must be run with windmills and their lands must be distributed fairly. They should not be let to the feudal lords, the usurers, and the speculators, who want to make quick profits.

There is one last observation I would like to make and which is a bit out of context, but it is the minds of many people and it is this: We have two peoples, the Lebanese people and the Palestinian people, whose products we must buy. The PLO suggested the purchase of agricultural produce from the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There were protests against this suggestion at the Casablanca summit to the effect that these might be Israeli goods and that we might thus open a loophole. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] has affirmed that it is Palestinian production, which benefits Palestinian families and the Palestinian people in one part of the occupied land, and that we must buy this production. He pinpointed one of the loopholes as being Port Said. When asked if there were any Israeli goods going to Egypt despite the Arab boycott—to avoid any confusion between Israeli and Palestinian goods—Egypt affirmed at the summit that it does not take any Israeli produce or goods and that it does not need to import anything from the Israelis. Consequently, it was established that the agricultural produce coming through Port Said was Palestinian. This could constitute an assistance to the intifadah and to the Palestinian people in the occupied land.

Then we have the Lebanese people who are going through an ordeal which is in fact a pan-Arab ordeal. The cause of any religious, sectarian or other war is a pan-Arab problem. The cause is the Palestinian problem, as Lebanon is situated on the borders of Palestine and because the fedayeen used Lebanon as a launching base. This in turn resulted in the other problems. Israel intervened in Lebanon; the Americans and the whole of the West also intervened in Lebanon in order to deprive the Palestinians of that base and to divide them into factions and parties, as is the case now, from what we hear.

But the Lebanese farmer and the Lebanese people should not be left alone, therefore we must agree to find

[sentence imcomplete as heard] They are waging a pan-Arab battle. Had it not been for the Arabs' central problem, as our brothers in Iraq call the Palestinian problem. [sentence incomplete as heard] It is indeed a central problem. It is because of this central problem that the Lebanese people have been subjected to these tragedies. They are the second victim after the Palestinian people. How can we not assist them at least by buying the produce of the Lebanese farmers?

Why do you buy agricultural produce from foreign countries—distant and even hostile countries—and neglect the produce of your brother Palestinians and Lebanese? Even the Somalis. Italy imports from Somalia, while the Arabs do not. How strange. I discovered in Libya bananas imported from Honduras. [passage omitted] May God make your efforts successful.

Sudan

SPLA Carries Out 'Heavy Raid' on Yei 17 Jan

EA1801173090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] captures 112 vehicles of different types: In a deliberate and heavy raid into Yei town yesterday, a "Bright Star" campaign task force captured and drove into the bush 112 vehicles of different types with good amounts of fuel, oil and lubricants. All strategic points in Yei town, including the police [station] were captured and occupied while the vehicles were being driven into the bush, while at the same time the army was pinned down in the barracks in an operation which lasted 7 hours—from 0500 until 1200 [0300 to 1000 GMT].

The raiding force withdrew safely after accomplishing its mission. All the vehicles are now safely far away from Yei. The raid on Yei and capture of the 112 vehicles was facilitated by friendly elements within the town's police, prisons, game [wardens] and militia who joined the SPLA and withdrew together with the raiding party after accomplishment of the mission. "Bright Star" campaign forces remain within 3 miles of Yei, and the siege of Yei will continue until the garrison falls. [sounds of martial music]

In a related development, the junta's General Headquarters was panicked by the raid on Yei, and they ordered aerial bombardment of the whole town except the army garrison. At 1430, 2 hours after the raiding party withdrew from the town, two enemy jet fighters carried out heavy indiscriminate bombardment of the town.

As a result, Yei town was burning all night yesterday. The few civilians that were still in Yei town fled the town for the countryside during the enemy's air bombardment. Yei town is now completely deserted, with only the junta's army in the town, and "Bright Star" campaign forces around them. [sounds of martial music]

Kala Garrison Captured, Juba Threatened

EA1801165690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Another Army garrison in Western Equatoria also fell to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] yesterday at 0900. The enemy garrison at Kala, also known as (Kijju), withdrew without a fight. Kala garrison had an enemy infantry company and falls half-way between Yei and Kajo Kaji.

After the fall of Kajo Kaji, Kaia, Bazi and Morobo, and the siege of Yei, the garrison at Kala became redundant. "Bright Star" operation ignored Kala to save lives on both sides, since "Bright Star" operation General Command assessed that the only course of action left to the enemy was to withdraw their garrison at Kala. This, they did precisely yesterday and we congratulated the commander of Kala for withdrawing from Kala. "Bright Star" operation here advises other garrisons whose position is untenable to withdraw like those of Kala before they are destroyed. [sounds of martial music]

The latest report on the fugitive brigadier PSC [Passed Staff College] Isaiah Paul: It is to be recalled that some few days ago, the junta declared Isaiah Paul a hero and said that Isaiah Paul had reached Juba safely. However, Radio Juba yesterday confirmed SPLA's earlier report that Isaiah Paul had fled into Zaire. In a broadcast yesterday, Radio Juba announced that Isaiah Paul was in Aru [bordering Uganda] inside Zaire with about 500 soldiers.

The junta obviously thinks the public is as foolish and has as short a memory as themselves. Only 4 days ago, the junta claimed over the BBC that their so-called hero, Isaiah Paul, had already reached Juba safely. Yesterday, the junta contradicted this by announcing over Radio Juba that Isaiah Paul was in Zaire. We ask the junta which is correct. Isaiah Paul cannot be both in Juba in the Sudan, and in Aru in Zaire at the same time.

A lie lies so shamelessly to the public. The truth is as was announced by Radio SPLA: The junta's declared hero, Brig Isaiah Paul, deserted his troops and fled wearing dirty underwear and camouflaged in a woman's dress on his way to Zaire where he is a soldier refugee. [sounds of martial music]

"Bright Star" operation commander warns Juba. In a message to Radio SPLA the "Bright Star" operation commander today warned that the attack on Juba is imminent. SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" operation Infijar [explosion] commandos and the Red Army brigades are now moving on Juba from Jabal Lado, Jabal Kujur and from Yei area. Juba will be attacked any time from today. We advise the population to go to the countryside to avoid stray bombs and stray bullets. SPLA cells inside Juba town, those of Din Hajar are to intensify their activities. [sounds of martial music]

SPLA Calls For 'Intifadah' Against Al-Bashir

EA1801164390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1345 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] We appeal to the police, prisons, game [wardens] and militia and patriotic elements in the army to join forces with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in the battle for Juba. Now is the time. Take unilateral independent action. Do not wait for any more orders. This is the time. With the attack on Juba, the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]—SPLA here calls upon its allies in Khartoum, Atbara, Wad Madani, Port Sudan and other cities to begin civil disobedience, strikes that will end in mass demonstrations and the overthrow of the oppressive and repressive junta, and its replacement by people's power.

We call on the national democratic alliance, on the trade and professional unions, on the farmers of Al-Jazirah, on the political parties, on the students, on the women, on all the Sudanese people to unite in a torrent of people's power to push off and evict this bloody junta which is a shame to the Sudan. We call on the army to take the true (?size) of the people and disassociate itself from the junta. The army belongs to the Sudanese people, not to the junta, and not to the National Islamic Front [NIF]. Similarily with the police and other auxiliary forces: they must play their patriotic role in support of the people.

It is approaching 5 years since April 1985 when dictator al-Numayri was evicted in an intifadah. Let us celebrate the fifth anniversary of the April 1985 uprising with the 1990 intifadah to evict 'Umar al-Bashir's repressive NIF government.

SPLA Urges Equatoria Residents To Leave Cities

EA1301213690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] An appeal and directives from Commander James Wani Igga. The Commander of Central and Western Equatoria Zonal Command has today through Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] appealed to citizens in Kaia, Yei, Juba, Mundri, Maridi, Yambio, (Tomra), and Terakeka to do as those of Morobo have just done; that is, to leave the town and settle their families in the countryside. This is the only sensible thing to do. There is nothing to do in the towns. Go to the countryside now to construct your houses before the (?grass burns) and prepare for the coming rainy season cultivation. Cdr James Wani Igga told Radio SPLA that reception centers are being set up everywhere in Western and Central Equatoria to receive and help those coming from the towns to resettle in the countryside.

Cdr James Wani Igga also advised foreigners caught up in the fighting in Western and Central Equatoria to contact SPLA "Bright Star" campaign field commanders around Kaia, Yei, Maridi, Yambi Mundri, and Juba to arrange their safe evacuation to any neighboring country they chose. Cdr James Wani Igga said the SPLA has nothing against foreigners working for the National Islamic Front government of Al-Bashir, since these foreigners do so in the mistaken belief that they are serving the Sudanese people. The SPLA is therefore committed to the safe evacuation of these foreigners and they are welcome back behind SPLA lines or when justice is restored in the new Sudan.

Junta Member Malwal Meets With Libyan Envoy

EA1601224290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jan (SUNA)—Colonel Martin Malwal, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor of Bahr al-Ghazal region, reviewed with the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum the suspicious and dangerous moves of Zionism and imperialism in the Afro-Arab region, and the effect of these moves on the security and stability of the region.

This was said when Col Martin Malwal met here today the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau. The meeting was attended by Major General Andrew Makur, governor of Bahr al-Ghazal region.

The meeting agreed on the inevitability of (?cooperation) between the countries of the region to confront the axis threatening the region. The secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau praised Sudan for its understanding of the events in the region.

Registration of Refugees Halted in Khartoum

EA1501183190 Khartoum SUNA in French 0937 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Kartoum, 14 Jan (SUNA)—The refugees commission in Khartoum has ordered a halt to new registrations and identity cards for refugees in the national capital, except in certain urgent cases.

In statements to the press, the refugees commissioner, Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim Sirr al-Khatim, said on Monday that the commission's decision coincided with the resolution concerning the [word indistinct] of a period in question for registrating the refugees.

The exception are cases of study, and incurable diseases, which involve the presence of the refugees in Khartoum, Mr Sirr al-Khatim added.

He also stated that the measures were aimed at promoting the services for the refugees in order to diminish the effects of the presence of the refugees in the capital. The refugees commission is now making the necessary preparations to apply these measures in the eastern region, and in the other regions of the country, to draw up real statistics for the numbers of refugees in Sudan, he added.

The number of foreign refugees in Khartoum has reached 29,371 since the the project began on 20 May.

Shilluk-Sabha Reconciliation Meeting Held

EA1201125489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, this evening at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers chaired a meeting of the higher committee of reconciliation between the Shilluk and the Sabha tribes to repair the damage resulting from the regrettable recent incidents between them.

The meeting reviewed the outcome of the incidents and the methods of tackling them, bearing in mind that the incidents were the first of their kind and that the history of the Arab tribes and the Shilluk has witnessed unrivalled amity and cooperation. Hence the incidents were but a transient matter in the history of these tribes' relations.

Brig al-Zubayr praised the high spirit of patriotism of both the Shilluk and Sabha tribes in containing the effects of the incidents. The authorities expressed their appreciation for their timely and immediate presence at the site of the incidents and the urgent contacts with the deputy chairman of the NSRCC, the governor of the Central Region and his deputy, as well as the governor of Upper Nile Region and his deputy, the armed forces, the police, and the other security organs near the site of the incidents. This imposed respect for the authorities and assisted the establishment of security and the straightening out of matters.

The leaders present expressed their definite interest in containing [word indistinct] the side-effects of the incidents to ensure the restoration of the humane record of relations and the spirit of amity, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence which has prevailed for so long in the daily life between the men of the Shilluk tribe and those of other tribes.

The meeting tackled the question of gathering facts and information about and the extent of losses from to these transient incidents as a prelude to covening a general reconciliation meeting between the Shilluk and Arab tribes so that such regrettable incidents should not recur. This would have to be done through cooperation with the chiefs of the Shilluk and Arab tribes, who deplore what happened in view of the record of extensive tribal relations between the people of the tribes who have lived within the framework of social peace and security deeply rooted in the history of Sudanese life with all its values known to the present generation of Sudanese.

It is worth mentioning that the security authorities are discharging their duties with regard to these incidents with all responsibility and are fully investigating and pursuing facts to encompass all the points of view of the two sides so as to ensure peaceful coexistence in the area and its continuation, and to keep any hostile quarter from cashing in on the incidents.

Al-Bashir Declares 26 Jan National Holiday

EA1301141490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Summary] Lieutenant 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, has declared 26 January of every year to be a national day to mark the liberation of Khartoum from colonialism and to commemorate the patriotic amirs. He also disclosed that some streets in the national capital will be named after them. Al-Bashir announced this in the course of his speech at 'Umm Dubban yesterday.

Kuwait

Protestors Demand Return of Parliamentary System

LD1701181590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Thousands of Kuwaitis took part yesterday evening [15 January] in a rally held in a suburb of the capital demanding the return of the parliamentary system, despite an order by the Information Ministry last week banning such gatherings. The 2-hour rally was in front of the traditional venue for meetings and discussions in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Meets Kapitsa, Soviet Delegation

LD1701164690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1451 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 17 (KUNA)—Kuwait has urged the Soviet Union not to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity until it recognizes international resolutions—particularly the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on Wednesday told a Soviet delegation, currently visiting the country, that he was hopeful that the Soviet Union would maintain its well known attitude toward the Arab causes and its policy of not establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Soviet delegation is led by Parliament member and director of the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Soviet Academy of Sciences Mikhail Kapitsa.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that they discussed a host of regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations, indicating that Kapitsa officially reflects his government's opinions on these issues.

He said Kapitsa had voiced in the name of the Soviet leadership that His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah would respond to the invitation for visiting the Soviet Union as soon as possible.

Shaykh Sabah said he assured the Soviet delegation of the strong and positive relations between the two countries, existing before the perestroyka.

Shaykh Sabah expresses hope that the Soviet policies would lead to attraction of foreign capital to invest in the Soviet Union.

Shifting to another issue, Shaykh Sabah said they discussed the situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, stressing the need to end the fighting between the Afghan people themselves.

The Soviet ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev told KUNA that Kapitsa had explained Moscow's stand toward the Middle East question and its drive for finding a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and assured Shaykh Sabah of the Soviet Union's unswerving support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Zverev said the two sides shared identical viewpoints on the situation in the Gulf region where they stressed the need to end the state of no peace and no war through a comprehensive and lasting settlement that will realize peace and stability for Iraq and Iran and for all the countries in the region.

Oman

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN1701145490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Abdelhamid Escheikh, Tunisian foreign minister and personal envoy of His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia, arrived in the country at noon today.

Upon arrival, Abdelhamid told OMAN NEWS AGENCY he is carrying a message from His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

The Tunisian minister was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the Tunisian ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Departs 18 Jan

JN1801140090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh left the country this morning after a 2-day visit to the Sultanate. The Tunisian foreign minister was honored during the visit to meet His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, to whom he delivered a written message from his brother His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia.

The Tunisian foreign minister was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the Tunisian ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Saudi Arabia

Palestinian Official Thanks Saudis for Aid

LD1801102190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 18 Jan (SPA)—Juwayd al-Ghusayn, chairman of the Palestinian National Fund, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Saudi Government, headed by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for its continuous support for the Palestinian people and their cause and the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

In an interview with SPA's correspondent in Amman, he said Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country to give—and it continues giving—so much for supporting the uprising; it pays out $6 million every month. [passage omitted]

Prince Urges Arab Cooperation in Defense Industry

PM1801115490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 90 pp 1-2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Prince Sultan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saudi Arms Deals To Be Announced at the Right Time"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz—Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general—has called for efforts to be pooled to establish comprehensive cooperation among the Arab states to set up broadly-based military industrialization projects.

Asked about the intention to endorse the compulsory military service system for Saudi youths, Prince Sultan said: Military conscription applies in the countries whose peoples avoid joining armed forces sectors. But in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we do not believe it is necessary, because our sons are part of the Armed Forces and we can see their interest in joining the Armed Forces sectors. The door still is open for them to train in our Armed Forces."

Asked whether the allocation of a major proportion of the new Saudi budget to the Armed Forces and security indicates a desire to conclude new arms deals, Prince Sultan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We announce deals only at the right time and when they take place. But the aid in the budget reflects the leadership's and the government's feelings toward Armed Forces officials. Undoubtedly the preservation of our country's security and stability is a necessary demand, though I stress the country's security comes from God, due to its commitment and adherence to the Islamic faith, praise to Almighty God.

After attending a major air display by Saudi fighter aircraft yesterday and the graduation of a new group of Saudi officers, pilots, and technicians—including two Bahraini pilots—Prince Sultan said: That support in the state budget for the Saudi Armed Forces is nothing but support for our country and our generous people for opening the door for our young university and secondary education graduates to join the Armed Forces sectors, because we realize their eagerness to serve their country in various fields.

Prince Sultan described the "economic parity" program being implemented by Saudi Arabia as a fruit of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz's directives that much of the funds paid for the arms deals be recovered in hard currency, by investing a major part of them in industrialization and transfers of advanced technology to Saudi Arabia—a positive and constructive step which will serve Saudi Arabia.

Answering another question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about Saudi Arabia's position on the "conditions of moderation" in the region, Prince Sultan said: We always look at these conditions with optimism and see them from that angle. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Contacts Fahd on Arab Developments

LD1801205190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, within the framework of consultation and exchange of viewpoints on the latest developments in the Arab scene, as well as international topics in a bid to coordinate the two fraternal countries' stances toward them.

Yemen Arab Republic

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN1801195190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Abdelhamid Escheikh, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Sanaa tonight on a visit of several days to our country. In a statement to SABA', the Tunisian foreign minister said he is carrying a message to brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and secretary general, from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

The Tunisian minister was received by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a representative from the Protocol Department; and Brother Chedli Zoukar, Tunisian ambassador in Sanaa.

Prime Minister Returns From Baghdad 18 Jan

JN1801134490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and the accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa early today from Baghdad after participating in the third meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Cooperation Council in the Iraqi capital 16-17 January. [passage omitted]

Sick, Wounded Iranian POW's Depart for Tehran

JN1801121690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Twenty sick and wounded Iranian prisoners of war [POW's], released under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, left Baghdad this morning for Tehran.

They were seen off at the airport by the secretary of the standing committee for war victims and a Foreign Ministry representative.

President Addresses Arab Industry Ministers

JN1801124290 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 18, INA—President Saddam Husayn on Wednesday called for setting up an Arab investment guarantee fund within the framework of the Arab League to encourage Arabs invest in Arab countries. [sentence as received]

Speaking to Arab industry ministers who are here to attend the extraordinary session of the Council of Arab Industrial Development Organisation, President Saddam Husayn called for defining some well-established guarantees that eliminate fear by Arab investors to invest their money in the Arab world.

The president stressed that the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs and the refrain from use of force between Arab states constitute the starting point for defining other guararantees to encourage inter-Arab investment.

Arab entrepreneurs have objective reasons to refrain from investment in other Arab states.

He added, "as Arabs we are not yet in agreement on what should be forbidden." Arab policies, he said, are not yet based on a well-defined course whether in economic, social or political fields.

Arab capital was and still is apprehensive of nationalisation which has taken place and is still likely to take place every now and then.

Arab capital was afraid of political differences between the Arabs which some times end up in complete boycott. But above all, the Arab capital was haunted by the fear of the intervention in the internal affairs and the use of force.

"If we succeed in eliminating these obstacles, there could be a lot of inter-Arab investment by private capital," the president said.

Once the Arabs have agreed on what is forbidden in inter-Arab relations, mainly the principles of non-interference and the refrain from use of force, this must be strictly observed when it comes to the implementation of the agreements. "We should not allow any Arab to violate it," the president said.

The president added that the establishment of a certain industry in a certain Arab country tends to encourage other Arab states to embark on their own industrial programme.

When the Arabs compare themselves with advanced industrialised states, this would create a psychological barrier that would lead to a state of frustration given the huge gap between industry in the Arab world and that of the industrialised countries, the president explained.

He urged that Arabs should make use of what has already been achieved in other fellow Arab states as a start for their own industries without having to start all over again from square one.

Referring to Iraq's experience in industrialisation, the president said that Iraq has centred on military industrialisation to secure victory and safeguard sovereignty.

"Unless we guarantee that our weapons are self-made, we would not be able to secure prospects for victory and maintain that our society is impregnable," he said.

The president said that military industrialisation has made progress following the ceasefire.

In the absence of a peace agreement with Iran, it is of paramount importance that we should take precautions so that no one would blame us for having fallen into a false sense of security and subsequently being taken offguard," the president said. [quotation marks as received]

The president added that when the war erupted, Iraq had to import everything starting from light ammunition to sophisticated weaponry. This state has resulted in some very critical and embarrassing situations.

"At one stage Iraq's main arms supplier withheld arms supplies for 14 complete months," the president said adding that such situations prompted Iraq to enter the field of national military industry so that it would not be forced into compromise at the expense of sovereignty and rights.

The president explained that in long wars it is essential that the people are allowed the opportunity to remain outside the influence of foreign powers.

"Military industry has therefore had a key role in achieving victory," the president said.

He went on to say that military industry has had its spinoffs. Civil industries have also had their share in the progress, he said.

Saddam Husayn Returns From Jordan Visit 18 Jan

JN1801144690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1317 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Ladies and gentlemen, I have just received the following: Leader President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad today, in God's care and protection, after a 1-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Air Raid Hits 'Terrorist' Positions in Lebanon

TA1901051090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Israel Air Force planes last night raided terrorist positions in south Lebanon. All our planes safely returned. The positions attacked are located in al-Luwayza and 'Ayn Bu-Siwar area, north of al-Nabatiyah, and were used by Hizballah. This is reported by our correspondent, Karmela Menashe.

Reportage on Rabin Meeting With Secretary Baker

Says No Aid Cuts for 2 Years

TA1801194590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said after meeting today with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker he had received assurances that the American aid to Israel would not be cut, even if the administration reshuffles its international aid budget. He also said it was hard to believe that talks between Baker and the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers would take place without the positions of Jerusalem and Cairo drawing closer. Connie Lon reports from Washington:

Defense Minister Rabin said he had received assurances aid to Israel would not be cut for the next 2 fiscal years. He believes this applies to American economic as well as military aid, but he apparently received no assurance beyond Fiscal Year 1991. He made his comments after meeting with Secretary of State James Baker for about a half hour. He told him he argued aid should not be cut because glasnost has not reached the Middle East. He said the USSR continues to supply military hardware to the radical regimes of Syria, Libya, and Iraq. Rabin said last year there was an increase in the flow of arms, qualitatively and quantitatively, from the USSR to those three countries. He cited the MiG-29 and the Sukhoi-24, which is like the U.S. F-111. He also argued Israel needs more money to settle Soviet emigrants. Regarding another weapons system, the M-9 missiles, Rabin said there is no evidence China is selling them to Syria. In fact, he said, they are not even operational.

Defense Minister Rabin spoke shortly after publication of the major story in THE WASHINGTON TIMES which says the U.S. ambassador to Israel declared last month Israel does not need all of the $1.2 billion in economic aid it receives annually from the United States.

Returns, Says U.S. 'Sympathetic'

TA1901115790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned from the United States this morning. Speaking at the airport, he said in all his talks with members of the the U.S. Administration, he found no evidence of intentions to slash aid to Israel. Moreover, he added, in several areas, such as strategic cooperation, there is even the intention to increase aid.

As for the political gaps between Israel, Egypt, and the United States, Minister Rabin said he does not believe the process is deadlocked. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe interviewed him:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, after 2 days of talks in Washington, is it your impression the changes in Europe and the diplomatic negotiations in the Middle East will be felt in the security sphere and in Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation?

[Rabin] Regarding the dramatic developments in the Soviet bloc, both inside the USSR and certainly in the East European countries, they have a very deep effect on U.S. public opinion, Congress, and the administration. Where security issues are concerned, including its immediate security needs or defense aid to various countries in the world, the United States has not yet consolidated its policy. It is studying the situation and reviewing it.

[Menashe] Minister Rabin added: I learned through my conversations in the Pentagon that the United States has begun implementing substantial cuts and has limited the logistic deployment and production in the U.S. Armed Forces. A team whose job it is to assess long- and mid-term effects of the sum total of these developments has been appointed at the Pentagon. Rabin also reported he emphasized to administration members Soviet arms continue to pour into the Middle East, and that there likewise has been no change in the flow of weapons to the Arab countries from Europe and the United States. At the same time, he noted he met with full understanding of Israel's security needs. Thus, for example, the sums allocated for conversion into shekels will be increased from $400 to $475 million.

[Rabin] I also faced a sympathetic audience when I mentioned issues pertaining to strategic cooperation, both in connection with joint exercises and in terms of infrastructure related to the strategic cooperation. In other words, all those things we were hoping would be added, and which come in addition to the U.S. aid, actually materialized.

[Menashe] The defense minister added although he does not foresee a problem in the near future, he nevertheless has no doubt topics such as problems in the territories and other political issues leave a mark:

[Rabin] So do other issues related to Israel which the public does not necessarily favorably regard. In the distant future, if no solutions are found for these issues, they could have a negative effect.

[Menashe] Following your meetings in the United States, do you still think there are gaps between the positions of Israel, Egypt, and the United States?

[Rabin] If you mean the political process, there still are gaps which have not yet been bridged. I believe with a

little goodwill on the part of Egypt, the United States, and Israel, it will not be impossible to overcome these differences.

[Menashe] Does that mean one must not dismiss the possibility the three foreign ministers will meet?

[Rabin] I very much hope the meeting indeed will take place. I do not believe, however, it will take place before it becomes crystal clear to the United States the gaps on some matters can be bridged—and let us not ignore the fact such gaps do exist.

[Menashe] Would it be wrong to talk about a stalemate?

[Rabin] At this stage, I have not reached the conclusion the process is deadlocked.

[Menashe] Reports were published today that Al-Asad is sending signals to Israel he is prepared to engage in negotiations and would not mind chemical weapon disarmament.

[Rabin] This is the first time I have heard of this. As soon as there is an official appeal by Syria, I presume the issue will be discussed.

[Menashe] Have you noticed some thaw recently in relations with Syria?

[Rabin] At this stage, I cannot see any fundamental change in Syria's hostile position toward Israel. Perhaps in the course of its rapprochement with Egypt, changes will take place. Once they occur, if they do, we will discuss them. [end recording]

Expects 'Increase,' Not Cuts

TA1901094990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The political process is not frozen, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said upon returning from the United States. There still are still differences between the positions of Israel and the United States, but these are bridgeable.

As for a cut in U.S. aid to Israel, the minister told our correspondent, 'Ido Baum, that in his opinion, not only is such a cut not in store, but the aid designated for Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation is expected to increase by $75 million.

Reacting to reports about Al-Asad's desire to enter negotiations with Israel, the defense minister said: No official approach has been addressed to us at this point, but the rapprochement between Al-Asad and Mubarak may lead to progress in that direction.

Response to U.S. Sent; No Inner Cabinet Debate

TA1801163390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal today said the forum of four has sent an untitled paper to the United States responding to the document Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein brought back from his visit. The unofficial Israeli document, Minister Shahal said, was sent simultaneously with the defense minister's departure for the United States, despite the prime minister's promise the Israeli response would be formulated after a debate in the Inner Cabinet, a debate which has not begun.

Addressing Labor Party members in Tel Aviv, Minister Shahal went on to say the paper delivered by the forum of four contains two separate answers—one from the Alignment, one from the Likud. In its reply, the Labor Party states the peace process should be pursued, and that it accepts the arrangements proposed by the United States and its pledge not to force us to negotiate with the PLO.

Minister Shahal added that, in its reply, the Likud presents more specific demands. According to Shahal, Egypt already has conveyed to the United States the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation. This is reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan. [A similar report by Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 18 January adds "the United States has made the foreign ministers meeting in Washington conditional on the naming of the Palestinians who would attend the meeting with the Israeli delegation in Cairo."]

Shamir Office Denies Response Sent

TA1801172490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office categorically denies Minister Moshe Shahal's remarks the forum of four conveyed to Washington separate answers by the Alignment and the Likud to the letter of draft assurances sent by Secretary of State James Baker.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports the Prime Minister's Office statement says: It is regrettable Shahal did not see fit to consult the prime minister before he made public his irresponsible remarks.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Portugal

For Tel Aviv and Lisbon reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Portugal, including reports on his talks with Portuguese President Mario Soares and Prime Minister Cavaco Silva, please see the Portugal section of the 19 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Police Arrest Al-Husayni for 'Gang' Involvement

TA1901071290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Here is a report just in: Faysal al-Husayni was arrested this morning by the police. Here are more details by our correspondent, 'Amos Har'el:

Israel Police this morning arrested Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian activist from East Jerusalem. He was arrested in the wake of an indictment submitted yesterday to the military court in Lod, which said he had been involved in the activities of a Fatah gang that had planned to carry out terrorist attacks. The indictment said Al-Husayni met with the gang's members and agreed with them on a money payment. The police a few minutes ago confirmed this report.

Al-Husayni Denies Link to Terrorists

TA1801154490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has denied any connection with five residents of the village of Silwan whose detention was extended today by the Lod Military Court. They are charged with setting up a squad of the Palestinian Popular Army.

Al-Husayni told our correspondent Arye Gus he indeed is familiar with one of the detainees, Muhammad 'Isa Zaytun, who had worked at his house as a maintenance man several times during the past few months. Al-Husayni knew nothing of Zaytun's activities, however.

The indictment filed at the Lod Military Court claims Faysal al-Husayni gave money to a terrorist squad and was briefed by them on their planned terror acts. The military prosecution claims Zaytun, who is one of the squad members, 3 months ago met with Al-Husayni. He notified Al-Husayni of the formation of the squad, and even received 900 shekels to buy uniforms for the squad members. On another date, one of the defendants told Al-Husayni the squad intends to carry out several terror acts. Al-Husayni agreed to meet him, but the meeting did not take place due to the five's detention.

Our correspondent reports the five are charged with forming an illegal organization, throwing stones, and erecting roadblocks.

Shamir Would Meet Al-Asad, Saddam, Not 'Arafat

TA1801134490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] In a meeting with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he is prepared to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, but not with Yasir 'Arafat.

In a meeting with Ron Brown, chairman of the U.S. Democratic Party, the prime minister said he hoped Senator Dole's proposal to cut aid to Israel would not be taken seriously by the administration.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes this evening the prime minister will confer with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and with members of the America Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Peres, MAPAM Discuss Labor-Led Government

TA1901115690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent]

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres discussed with MAPAM [United Workers Party] yesterday the possibility of toppling the unity government and replacing it with a left-religious "peace coalition" under his stewardship.

While MAPAM Secretary-General Ela'zar Granot was generally receptive to Peres's idea, the Labour Party leader received warnings from his other anticipated allies, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and Shinuy, that their support should not be taken for granted.

In addition, Labour's own "Centrist Forum" rebuked Peres and expressed a preference for maintaining the unity government with the Likud "as long as the peace process has a chance... Any talk of dismantling the government only sabotages the peace process," the forum's spokesman said.

The CRM's Yosi Sarid told reporters that his party, "which is essential to Peres's coalition," would boycott it unless the proposed government promises to open talks with the PLO.

Shinuy leader Amnon Rubinstein said that his party would not join if Labour granted the religious parties concessions, which would constitute "an increase in religious coercion or regression in human rights."

Granot said that the meeting with Peres was conducted in "an excellent atmosphere," adding that he did "not foresee MAPAM being the obstacle" to a Labour-led coalition. At the meeting along with Granot were his party colleague, MK Ya'ir Tzaban; Peres's deputy in the Finance Ministry, Yosi Beilin, and Labour's Knesset whip, Hayim Ramon.

The two groups agreed to meet again in the near future to try to iron out their differences over economic policy.

Defense Cuts To Force Cancellation of Orders

TA1901102790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 90 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] The updating of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] work plan, completed this week in the wake of a decision on the size of the defense budget, will lead to cancellation by the defense establishment of some 300 million shekels in orders from defense industries, according to the plan prepared by the IDF's Planning Branch and other Army units.

The IDF was forced to change its work plan for 1990 after it turned out the Treasury has no intention of

compensating the defense establishment for all its expenditures resulting from the intifadah.

The budget decision, agreed upon by the finance and defense ministers, says the defense budget for 1990 will be 10.5 billion shekels (in 1989 prices) [about $5 billion]. The decision forced the IDF to reconsider the work plan it recently presented to the Cabinet.

After discussions in the General Staff and completion of the Planning Branch's work, it was decided one of the only possibilities to cut expenditures in the coming work year is to cancel projects ordered at Israeli defense industries or to spread them over longer periods than planned.

The IDF's corps and branches have been forced to prioritize orders and decide which projects to cancel. The projects to be canceled mostly are those included in the list of IDF alternatives which formed the basis for the IDF senior commander's arguments for canceling the Lavi project. [passage omitted]

Within the framework of the decision taken by the General Staff, it was decided no funds would be earmarked in 1990 for the submarine project. Nevertheless, there was no decision to cancel the project, and in fact, the General Staff evaded making a clear-cut decision on the issue. But the evasive action is temporary: The chief of staff will have to decide on the project by September, because only until then will it still be able to halt the project without adding extra expenditures stipulated in the contracts with the FRG shipyards and various manufacturers.

Senior IDF officials expressed concern this would not be the final cut the Army will have to make this year.

SFRY Official: 'No Speedy Normalization'

TA0901173690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] No speedy normalization in relations between Israel and the SFRY is expected, said (Milan Mezck), the Yugoslav Parliament speaker, during a visit to Jerusalem. (Mezek) is the guest of Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky. The Yugoslav news agency reports (Mezek) also conferred with Police Affairs Minister Bar-Lev, who hails from Yugoslavia.

CSSR, GDR Said To Resume Ties With Israel

PM1101110290 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jan 90 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Czechoslovakia and East Germany To Recognize Israel"]

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has told AL-MAJALLAH that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has received two messages from the new presidents of Czechoslovakia and East Germany, informing him of their intention to restore diplomatic relations between their countries and Israel. They also confirmed their support for the establishment of the Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation.

The source emphasized the PLO does not interfere in the internal affairs of any state and that such decisions are matters of sovereignty.

The source added 'Arafat has replied with two messages, urging the two countries' policies help the Palestinian people obtain their right to self-determination.

Hamas Leaflet Details Group's Goals, 'Principles'

TA1201122190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 90 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] recently has published a 79-page brochure which includes its main tenets. The brochure was issued in a limited number of copies. "We believe our struggle against the Jews over the land of Palestine draws no distinction between rightists and leftists. From our standpoint, they all bear arms, they all are murderers. It is enough they emigrated from their mother countries to settle in Palestine against the wishes of our people," says the pamphlet, which explains the organization's attitude toward the Palestinian problem.

The cover of the brochure is purple-pink and shows the map of Eretz Yisra'el against the background of a setting sun. It is entitled: "The Hamas Approach to the Palestinian Problem." The author of the pamphlet is Mahmud Ibn-Yusuf, apparently a nom de plume. One of the articles in the brochure is titled "The Failure to Regain the Holy Land Can Be Blamed on Those Who Excluded Islam From the Battle Against the Jews by Fighting in an Un-Islamic Way." Another article is titled "Our Struggle Against the Jews is the Struggle Between Truth and Falsehood—Between Islam and Judaism."

One of the most important chapters in the booklet deals with the differences of opinion between Hamas and the Unified National Command of the Uprising and with the question of why these two bodies will not unite. The answer to this question is complex, but is explained in full detail. Hamas believes the organizations affiliated with the Unified National Command can be penetrated by the "enemy's intelligence, which has managed to recruit dozens of feeble-hearted men from among these organizations' ranks. We had a bitter experience when Hamas tried to cooperate with Fatah, a move which led to the detention of most of the Hamas leadership in the territories."

The structure of the Unified National Command likewise is unacceptable to Hamas. "The Unified National Command is composed of several elements, indicating it is not yet properly organized in terms of its policy and vision. For example, it publishes various versions of its

leaflets. Furthermore, something even worse happened when in one version of leaflet No 25, Hamas was attacked, while in another, it was not."

Another chapter in the booklet presents Hamas' principles for solving the Palestinian problem:

—release detainees.

—oppose the settlements.

—oppose the policy of deportation.

—oppose the occupation and the Shin Bet's trap.

—oppose the tax-collection policy.

The final chapter in the brochure deals with the organization's goals:

—objection to a defeatist solution; objection to Camp David, autonomy, or an international conference.

—constant activity to expel the occupying forces and liberate the homeland and the holy places from the sacrilege conquest.

The attainment of the goals will be accomplished in stages:

—by preserving the Palestinian momentum in occupied Palestine.

—emphasizing the Islamic nature of the Palestinian problem.

—emphasizing Palestinian opposition to the U.S. plans.

—emphasizing this is everyone's campaign, not a specialized one.

—the Palestinian people have no other leader but the Islamic religious leadership.

—the Palestinian people will make do with very little in their daily lives to reach the stage of a total boycott of the enemy's institutions.

—by torpedoing Israel's attempts to end the intifadah.

Turkish Official Explains Euphrates Cut-Off

JN1801120690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Jan 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—An official Turkish delegation, which is touring several Arab countries, Wednesday said that Turkey did not have any "ulterior motives or bad intentions towards its neighbours" in its move to cut the flow of the Euphrates River to Syria and Iraq for one month.

The "reservoir impounding" of the Ataturk Dam, which is one of the key structures on the Euphrates River, has drawn protests from both Damascus and Baghdad saying that the cut-off will have adverse effects on their agriculture.

Syria and Iraq depend on the Euphrates water for irrigation and hydro-electric power generation. Thousands of hectares of cultivated land and hydroelectric power plants in Syria and Iraq would be seriously effected by the cut-off, which went into effect Saturday, Syrian and Iraqi officials have been quoted as saying.

"Our intentions have always been to enhance cooperation with our neighbours. Had they been otherwise we would not have spent $500 million a day to build the Ataturk Dam," said Necate Utkan [name as published], director general of economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of two Turkish officials now visiting Jordan. "If we want to hurt our neighbours there are less expensive and less complicated ways of doing that. This is not a political manoeuvre to apply pressure on our neighbours."

Ozden Bilen [name as published], the second man in the delegation, explained that "newspaper reports have said that we are diverting the water flow. We are not. Diverting the water flow would mean that the course of the river would be changed and that is not taking place."

The Turkish government has announced that the one-month cut-off was aimed at filling the Ataturk Dam reseroir.

Utkan warned against "those spreading fears that Turkey has other intentions are those wishing to do this region harm."

"We have signed a protocol in 1987 in which Turkey promised to release 500 cubic metres per second to the Syrian side of the border," Utkan added.

"We have a joint Syrian-Turkish-Iraqi technical committee which deals with our common water issues," Utkan said. "Iraqi and Syrian officials have been briefed on our plans and we have had meetings in the last three months to discuss and explain our plans. As far as we know there was no objection from either side."

In order to compensate Syria for the low-flow period, Turkey released enough water into Syria to "make up" for the amount of water which it would be denied during the one-month period. The extra flow of water began on November 1989 and the Turkish delegation visiting Amman told reporters that "the extra amount of water has already reached Syria; all of it, as we promised."

Utkan said that Turkey was aware that the "primary objection of our two concerned neighbours is the time period involved. We have been asked to shorten the cut-off to two weeks instead of four weeks. But the problem is that we want to be honest and can therefore not commit ourselves to an exact time period. Our Syrian and Iraqi colleagues should know this because the Ataturk Dam is not the first dam to be filled. They have experience in such things and should therefore realise that we cannot commit ourselves to an exact date."

The al-Tabaqah Dam in Syria which stores 14 billion cubic metres of water held the "make up" water that Turkey had released into the Euphrates since Nov. 23, the Turkish officials said. They also said that if there were any disagreements between Syria and Iraq that they had to "work out their differences by an agreement. Our border is with Syria and we are keeping our 500 cubic metres per second part of the deal."

According to official reports from Turkey, the months of January and February were chosen to carry out the operation because, according to their information, water needed for irrigation in Syria and Iraq and evaporation losses are minimal during these months.

The Turkish officials maintained that the legal status of the river flow was ruled by "optimum, reasonable and equitable utilisation of the water." Utkan added that "the United Nations legal committee of the General Assembly was working on the elaboration of the codification of laws governing rivers."

"I would also like to point out that we are the only country in the region to have anything close to the protocol of 1987 concerning water rights which flow across boundaries," he added.

Bilen pointed out that "there are 130 kilometres between the Ataturk Dam and the Syrian-Turkish border, not 60 kilometres as many papers reported. What that means is that Turkey will also be effected by the cut off, its farming areas are also bound to suffer, so we are just as interested as our Iraqi and Syrian neighbours to keep the impounding period as short as possible."

The visiting Turkish officials said that three rivers, the Goksu, the Arabian, and the Nizip, situated between the Ataturk Dam and the Syrian border would continue to flow into the Euphrates.

Utkan said that the Ataturk Dam had been paid for "entirely by the Turkish national budget."

They said Turkey is making a strenuous effort to develop its southeastern provinces and thus to curb regional unrest. "We want to improve living conditions and economic conditions where they are not so good," Utkan

said. "There are two ways to deal with an unhappy sector of your population; you can crush them or you can try to improve their living and working conditions. Turkey has opted for the second choice."

The delegation visited Abu Dhabi and Cairo before coming to Amman and leaves for Libya to address Arab agricultural ministers at the Arab League.

Iraq's Saddam Comments on Talks, Departs

JN1801135890 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn left Amman today, concluding a working visit to Jordan where he had talks with his majesty the king. His majesty told reporters at the airport before Mr. Saddam's departure that he had exchanged views with the Iraqi president on pan-Arab action at this critical stage through which the region and the world in general is passing.

On the Iraq-Iran peace process, President Saddam predicted that Iran will ultimately accept peace particularly after Baghdad's recent peace initiative.

His majesty the king bade farewell to the Iraqi president. Also bidding farewell were the prime minister, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the Royal Court chief, and a number of high-ranking civic and military officials.

Media on Soviet Jews' Emigration to W. Bank

Moscow Must 'Reconsider' Policy

JN1601092290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jan 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Immigration and Greater Israel"]

[Text] The arrival in Israel of vanguards of the new wave of Soviet Jewish emigrants has brought excessive joy to Yitzhaq Shamir and prompted him to go to excess while talking about Greater Israel, incredible miracles, and the time factor working in favor of the Jewish state. This unrestrained joy also prompted Shamir to talk of big changes that will affect everything in Israel.

Shamir's eloquent rhetoric has failed to conceal the fragility of many of his elusive dreams. Yet, we will dwell on the public statements he made on the issue of Greater Israel. Rarely have the Zionist enemy leaders been so outspoken on this issue as Yitzhaq Shamir was yesterday.

The Soviet Jewish emigration is viewed by Shamir and other Israeli leaders, who are well-known for their racist fanaticism, as a reason calling for expansion, annexation, and the acquisition of others' territories through the use of force. Shamir adds this emigration is a strong political excuse for holding on to the occupied Arab territories to absorb newcomers.

This unmistakably clear Israeli talk of expansion, annexation, and acquisition of others' territories should open the Arabs' eyes and minds to the dangers posed to their countries. The reference here is to the dangers posed by this new wave of immigrants, as there currently is talk of the arrival in Israel of 1 million Jewish immigrants. This figure might constitute a nucleus for a new Israel in the region. This is exactly what Shamir meant when he spoke of Greater Israel.

The danger posed by the arrival of the new wave of Jewish immigrants prompts us to call upon the USSR, the Arabs' good friend, to beware of the repercussions that might result from the arrival in Israel of this new wave of immigrants and to take into account the new complications that might be added by this new wave to a situation that already has had more than its fair share of complications. This is of paramount significance, particularly considering the USSR is making sincere efforts to settle and not complicate the Middle East conflict.

Soviet Jewish emigration cannot be viewed in this region as an internal affair that only concerns a friendly country, the meddling in whose internal policies is impermissible; especially considering this emigration harms the Arab nation's interests, casts gloomy shadows on our ties with that friendly country, and boosts Israel's aggressive and expansionist drive. All of this prompt us to ask Moscow to reconsider this policy and to correct the aspects of this policy which might inflict grave harm on Arab interests and the long-standing ties of friendship with the USSR.

Article Urges 'Expulsion' Action

JN1601103090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jan 90 p 2

["The Real Situation" column by Muhammad Dawudiyah: "The 45,000 Palestinians Did Not Stay Voluntarily"]

[Text] We were extremely worried about the figure published regarding the great numbers of Palestinian brothers leaving the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and not returning there to the land of steadfastness, intifadah, and confrontation against the Zionist onslaught.

The figure published by the press indicates more than 45,000 left their land at a time when herds of Jews found in Eastern Europe are preparing to take their place and join the ranks of the Zionist occupation army.

Our worry is not related to the place our brothers choose to reside, because all Arab lands, foremost of which is Jordan, was, and must remain, open for all free Arabs who were uprooted from their lands and subjected to the Zionist colonialist massacre and onslaught. Our worry is about the voluntarily evacuation of the land by its people, especially since most of those leaving are young males. It is inconceivable for a woman to leave her

brothers, sons, and parents and travel alone because our customs and habits do not allow this.

I have followed this subject and managed to come up with certain figures which remove all suspicion from our Palestinian brothers, who, we are quite certain, have no desire to evacuate the arena of struggle and glory.

These figures show the Israeli occupation troops send back Palestinians returning through the bridges and make things difficult for them in order to implement the immigration program in doses and not to draw the attention of the Palestinian, Arab, and world public opinion.

If this criminal practice was committed anywhere else or by anyone other than the Zionists, there would have been an international uproar that could not be stopped by a resolution until justice is done to the poor Jew. [sentence as published]

The best proof of this is that the major issue the United States used to place at the top of the U.S.-Soviet summit agendas was the Jews' freedom to emigrate. Emigration here naturally means to the "promised land," after the United States, in agreement with Israel, tightened the eye of the needle through which the Jews pass to the United States of America so they will, voluntarily or involuntarily, leave for occupied Palestine.

The figures available to me indicate:

On 1 January 1990, Israeli occupation troops sent back from the bridge around 90 Palestinian citizens who were trying to return to their land and who were carrying all the official papers and documents allowing them to return. So 90 people out of 432 came back.

On 5 January 1990, Israeli occupation troops sent back 300 out of 550 citizens. Those again were carrying official papers and documents which allow them to return.

On 7 January 1990, the enemy authorities sent back 300 out of 418 citizens.

On 8 January, the fascist occupation authorities sent back 300 out of 508 citizens.

These are astonishing figures i[illegible]ting a clear mass expulsion, which, over the years, will accumulate into thousands of people. There additionally always is the oppressive measures, insults, and maltreatment to which our Palestinian brothers are subjected.

Does such mass expulsion not require an Arab campaign, led by Jordan and the PLO, to expose these practices quietly being carried out? Does such a situation not require the international organization to be aware of this occupation, which violates all earthly and heavenly human norms and values?

We are waiting for some kind of a quick action regarding this, because matters cannot wait.

The Interior Ministry also is asked to prevent the weak minority of people who choose not to return [from staying in Jordan]. It must take measures to guarantee their return to the land of confrontation, sacrifice, and martyrdom.

Stand Against Extremism Urged

JN1601134590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Jan 90 pp 1, 11

[Article by chief editor Sultan al-Hattab: "A Strong, Reinforced Jordan in the Face of Greater Israel"]

[Text] The spurt of hostile statements made by Israeli diehards against Jordan in the international news media only can have one explanation; namely, Israel's displeasure with the new peace trends resulting from changes in the region represented by the intifadah and the emergence of the Palestinian national identity, which has been asserted by the majority of world nations through their recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to set up their state on their national Palestinian soil.

These Israeli statements, which reflect the viewpoints of extremist Israeli leaders from the Likud and the Labor Party, such as Sharon, Shamir, and Yitzhaq Rabin, are aimed at shuffling the cards anew and enabling Israel to extract itself from its historic impasse; namely, the peace option, and to resort to aggression, the method by which Israel has nurtured itself and carried out its projects and plans and the language that singles out Israeli generals in a world which has discarded and forgotten this language and replaced it by the language of economic cooperation and common interests.

Shamir's recent call for Greater Israel therefore is a call reflecting antiquated ideas alien to the logic of history and our modern age. It is an attempt to create justifications for aggression. So we must be very careful, lest Israel starts fishing in troubled waters and poisoning the atmosphere.

Shamir's statements must be taken seriously since they stem from a terrorist mentality and serve a historical falsehood, which Shamir and his followers are capitalizing on to ensure their continued existence. If the talk about Greater Israel is being bandied about once again today to cover up Israel's own crisis, then the Arabs are called upon to quickly reply to and defuse such talk. r, They must not do this, however, by rhetoric, but by an Arab stand placing Arab interests above all other considerations. Such an Arab stand necessarily must call for quick action by the states targeted by Shamir's statements. Greater Israel means Jordan, Syria, and Iraq as an immediate target and the entire Arab homeland as Israel's "Lebensraum." It means a new Israeli hegemony during the present U.S. Administration, which seeks to benefit fully from the new changes taking place in the world.

The message of the Arab reply, which must be quick, shouid be Jordan must remain strong and reinforced against the threat of Greater Israel, so this talk about Greater Israel would remain a fallacy and a mockery.

Arab Nation Needs Summit

JN1701074590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jan 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Immigration of Soviet Jews to Occupied Palestine"]

[Text] The emigration of Soviet Jews from their country to occupied Palestine still is carried by news agencies and published in the press as an ordinary news item. Despite the seriousness of this issue, no unified Arab position has been taken rising to the issue's seriousness. U.S. legislation and measures preventing Soviet Jews from entering the United States are designed to keep Palestine's doors open to them. This requires an Arab move on every level, including an Arab summit conference, to place the United States, the Soviet Union, and the international community face to face with this issue, its dangerous dimensions, and the destructive goals it implies.

The emigration of Soviet Jews, as well as sending them to occupied Palestine by force of U.S. legislation and measures, are designed to balance with corresponding emigration from Palestine. This emigration is due to the immigrant Jews' awareness of the facts, discovery of the false haven, and extent of deception during the past years. They discovered they had not come to the oasis Zionism had tried to portray, but to a castle full of anxiety, desire for aggression and expansion, grudge and hatred. When these Jews decided to emigrate from occupied Palestine, doors were opened for them to emigrate from the Soviet Union and, at the same time, U.S. doors were closed to them.

The emigration constitutes a real aggression because the immigrants replace citizens, who are expelled, deported, or forced to leave their homeland as a result of terrorism, repression, and the psychological and economic policies that destroy steadfastness. In the future, this emigration will be a veritable disaster for the Palestinians who will be displaced from their homeland, and for the region and the world, which seek peace and justice.

It seems the United States does not want to receive immigrant Jews. At the same time, it portrays any Soviet policy to limit emigration as an aggression against man's right to travel and move about. But the result is that after departing their country, large numbers of Soviet Jews find themselves captives in holding camps, from which they only can go to occupied Palestine.

The emigration of Soviet Jews thus turns into a plan by which the United States can use these Jews to achieve one of the goals of Zionism, which includes expansion, displacing the Palestinian people from their homeland, and keeping the Arab-Israeli conflict a bomb threatening peace in the region and the world. This means the United States is performing two dangerous and inhuman actions: removing the Soviet Jews from their homeland and forcing them to go to occupied Palestine, and expelling the Palestinians from their homeland and forcing them either to live with violence, terrorism, and Israel's racist policies, or to leave their homeland, Palestine.

We wonder: Where is the human rights slogan in these two actions? We also wonder: Does this not call for an emergency Arab summit to place the international community in general and Moscow and Washington in particular before the seriousness of the emigration, which emphasizes that many big powers do not intend to establish peace, justice, and stability in our region? The issue cannot be postponed.

UNRWA Denies Plan To Reduce Refugee Services

JN1701115090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 90 pp 1, 15

[By Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Excerpt] Sources in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, have denied reports it is trying to end its services to refugees in all areas. Instead, the sources said, UNRWA is trying to merge some of its programs but without reducing their levels.

These sources affirmed the merging is because of very difficult financial circumstances UNRWA is facing this year, adding that donations to UNRWA are not expected to cover even the normal expenses, while urgent needs in Lebanon and the occupied territories are increasing.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Giacomelli also expressed deep concern over expectations this year and that the major donor, the United States, currently is considering a sharp reduction of about $10 million in its donations.

Some observers believe reducing donations to UNRWA by some big powers is due to political factors designed to pressure the agency into approving their policies in the region. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Mubarak Telephones King; Views Exchanged

JN1801213190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received a telephone call from His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. They exchanged views on a number of Arab and international developments.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Positions

NC1901132290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpts] At approximately 0230 today, four Israeli warplanes attacked Hizballah positions in the villages of Mlita, 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi. They fired several missiles, estimated by security sources to number six, at military positions. Earlier, the raiding aircraft dropped flares in the vicinity of these villages. One child was killed in the attack, and four persons injured. Several houses were damaged. [passage omitted]

At approximately 1200, Israeli warplanes flew over the south for more than 7 minutes, drawing antiaircraft fire. About 5 minutes later, the enemy planes attacked the al-Ashrafiyah area in al-Miyah wa Miyah. At 1206, the planes repeated their raids in two stages. They dropped thermal balloons and followed this by firing several missiles, drawing antiaircraft fire. The security sources have not yet been able to estimate the number of casualties or the damages caused by the attacks. The injured include Ahmad 'Antar and Bahiyyah al-Ruz, who were admitted to Hammud hospital.

Quoting security sources, REUTER reported that the Israeli planes carried out four flights, during which they dropped 14 rockets on positions belonging to the Amal Movement, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Islamic Unification Movement. According to preliminary reports, the sources assessed the injured at no less than 10. They said that columns of smoke were billowing from the places that were raided.

According to additional reports, four Israeli warplanes raided the Voice of Palestine radio of Yasir 'Arafat at noon. The warplanes continued to circle the area for about 20 minutes. The reports do not say whether the radio station was hit. Consequently, shops and establishments in Sidon closed down. Civil Defense ambulances were seen evacuating the casualties.

Further on Raids

NC1901170790 Paris AFP in English 1523 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 19 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes mounted separate air strikes Friday on Palestinian and Shiite positions in south Lebanon, leaving at least 17 people dead or wounded, security sources said.

Four jets raided a PLO radio station broadcasting to the Israeli-occupied territories, dropping 40 bombs near the Palestinian refugee camp of al-Miyah wa Miyah, three kilometres (two miles) from Sidon, Palestinian sources said.

The Voice of the PLO station, which started broadcasts two days earlier, went off the air because its antennae were destroyed, the sources said. But the radio's underground offices were not damaged.

In Israel, a military spokesman said the planes returned to base safely after the raid. He charged that the radio was to broadcast instructions for guerrillas to mount anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon and the territories.

The Israeli air strikes, which earlier also targeted the pro-Iranian Shiite militia Hizballah, were the first this year.

The radio station, run by Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's main faction, was badly damaged in an Israeli air raid in August 1988 when it started test broadcasts.

The Voice of the PLO has since Wednesday been broadcasting news reports on the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, speeches by PLO officials and Palestinian revolutionary songs.

A Fatah training ground was also targeted Friday. The explosions were heard in the southern port city of Sidon as black smoke billowed over al-Miyah wa Miyah.

At least 15 Fatah fighters were killed or injured, Palestinian sources said, citing an initial casualty toll.

Palestinian fighters used their anti-air defences as well as Soviet-built SA-7 missiles, security sources said, while Israeli helicopters hovered over the sector and Israeli gunboats patrolled the waters off Sidon.

The raid on the radio station, lasting more than one hour, came after dawn strikes against Hizballah positions in south Lebanon.

Israeli Phantom jets hit Hizballah targets at Jabal Safi, al-Duwayzah, 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Mlita near the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, north of Israel's self-declared "security zone," security sources reported.

Hizballah, which has been fighting its Shiite rival the pro-Syrian Amal militia in Iqlim al-Tuffah for almost a month, confirmed the report saying two people were wounded.

A spokesman for the Israeli army also confirmed the dawn raids but said only one Hizballah target was hit at Luwayzah, with the warplanes returning to base safely having accomplished their mission.

Fatah has deployed a 400-man buffer force in Iqlim al-Tuffah in a bid to separate Amal and Hizballah and stop the fighting spreading to nearby Palestinian refugee camps.

Raids Target Sidon Area

NC1901100990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out two raids against areas east of Sidon a short while ago. The targets of the raids were military positions on the fringes of the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, near 'Ayn al-Dulb. The planes drew concentrated anti-aircraft fire.

Fighting in Beirut, Mountain Area Reported

NC1901164190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] At 1730 today, fighting involving machineguns and rockets took place on the al-Kafa'at and al-Hadath lines in the Southern Suburb. Sniper fire was directed from East Beriut at the residential areas adjacent to the city's dividing line.

Between 1600 and 1630 today, similar clashes took place on the Galerie Sim'an and Mar Mikha'il lines in the Southern Suburb. Intensive sniper fire was also reported on the Suq-al-Gharb and 'Aytat lines in the mountain area.

'Resistance Men' Attack Israeli Positions

NC1901070390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Resistance men fired rockets yesterday at positions held by the Israeli occupation and its militia in the Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya sectors. The men also carried out an attack against a hostile position in Tallat al-Tuhrah, northeast of al-Nabatiyah. The occupation forces opened heavy artillery fire at the liberated area. Shells fell in the outskirts of Qilya and Libayya, and on the hills of Jabal al-Dahr.

Members of the agent militias, which are commanded by agent Antoine Lahd, raked al-Hasbani and Kawkaba and fired at nearby areas. In Marj 'Uyun, an Israeli force consisting of eight armored cars advanced from Metulla gate toward al-'Ayshiyah and 'Arab Salim across al-Khardali bridge.

In al-Urqub an agent Lahd force raided Kafr Shuba township and searched some houses there. In the al-Majidiyah area, a 20-man Israeli unit raked the al-Wazzani spring area and Jisr Abu Zablah.

Al-Hirawi Expected To Visit Damascus 23 Jan

NC1801072090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi is expected to visit the Syrian capital 23-26 January on the first leg of an Arab tour, during which he also will visit member states of the Arab tripartite committee; namely, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria. He will be accompanied by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

'Awn Suspends Operations of Local News Agency

NC1901110690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] 'Awn's organs today began legal proceedings against Ra'uf al-Rasi, managing director of the AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency, for not abiding by 'Awn's decision and for continuing to use official and legitimate titles for the president, prime minister, Chamber of Deputies speaker, and politicians. They also suspended the agency's operations for 7 days as of today.

Prosecutor Suspends Publication of 2 Papers

NC1801150890 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The public prosecutor has suspended publication of AL-DIYAR newspaper for 7 days and asked the internal security forces general directorate to implement this ruling according to laws and regulations in force. [passage omitted]

Beirut Public Prosecutor George Ghanim today issued a similar ruling suspending publication of AL-BAYRAQ newspaper for 7 days, starting today, under Article 25 of the publications code.

The public prosecutor's office in Beirut charged AL-BAYRAQ's executive director with violating Article 25 of the publications code by endangering the state's unity and safety and encroaching on national sovereignty.

Judge George Ghantus will receive the dossier against AL-BAYRAQ tomorrow and set a trial date.

Ja'ja' 'Displeased' With 'Awn Media Action

NC1801191990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Circles close to [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr Samir Ja'ja' have said that he is very displeased with the course 'Awn has pursued in his war against the information media. Ja'ja' maintains that 'Awn's action was directed against the Lebanese Forces command and all political leaders in the eastern area.

Station Commentary Criticizes 'Awn Action

NC1701102190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Station commentary: "Lebanon and Freedom Are Twins"]

[Excerpts] Lebanon is proud to be the country of freedom. This has been its chief cultural characteristic. It has served as a platform and a beacon of freedom. [passage omitted]

For a long time Lebanon was the only country in the region providing a refuge for all those who wanted to express their views and ideas, and as a result it, was the subject of envy. Lebanon has not abandoned this freedom; it has continued to adhere to it despite occasional accusations. It remained so throughout the years of war. It could not change its image and its blood, because it was eager to safeguard the dignity of man and his freedom.

Lebanon and its people will not surrender now and will not submit to the rebellious phenomenon which is trying to smother freedom of expression and limit it to the

glorification of an individual who is working for division. The Lebanese people still will be here when the individual has disappeared, as history shows.

The communique issued by the abnormal phenomenon regarding information media was designed to tame the media and use them in service of his partitionist movement. This is unprecedented, except in colonialist and mandate times. Even then, the Lebanese media maintained their freedom and did not mind imprisonment and detention. This will not change now. The communique issued by the rebellious phenomenon yesterday exposes the falsehood of the slogans raised about freedom. [passage omitted]

This strange communique shows the distance between word and deed. How can the phenomenon of rebellion and disobedience talk about free areas when at the same time it gags mouths, restricts pens, and silences tongues? Freedom is indivisible. Either there is freedom, or there is not. For this reason, the Lebanese media in East Beirut preferred to react to this communique with silent outrage. [passage omitted]

He who commits this sin is an advocate of division and disintegration and a dictator—albeit a little one. He is not a seeker of freedom or liberation, as he claims. The signs of the destructive war still testify to this. The testimony disproving the slogans raised by the abnormal phenomenon now is represented in the attempt to undermine the most sacred meaning of freedom, the freedom of expression and the freedom to tell the truth. If the battle against the rebellious phenomenon has taken this course, victory will be for genuine freedom, the twin of the past, present, and future Lebanon.

Hizballah Secret Hideout Discovered

NC1901090690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The Amal Movement has stated that its security organ in the south has unveiled a Hizballah network which was preparing to blow up some of the movement's centers and assassinate some of its officials. It discoverd a secret hideout which Hizballah had set up in Kawthariyat al-Siyad. The hideout included cells where many hostages, including U.S. Colonel William Higgins and al-Kufur priest Khalil Sim'an, were detained.

Hizballah Radio Views Ongoing Dispute With Amal

NC1901083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The ongoing efforts to curb the clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have so far failed to produce positive results. This is because of the Amal Movement's intransigent stands, its rejection of solutions, and its unwillingness to implement the Damascus agreement. The movement continues to procrastinate by exploiting the involvement of certain opportunist sides in the crisis. This step is aimed at foiling the endeavors being made by the Islamic Republic of Iran through its envoy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement gunmen have carried out arbitrary measures against our kinfolk in the resisting south. Amal gunmen raided the house of His Eminence Shaykh 'Afif al-Nabulsi and evicted a number of families from various villages. They stepped up their oppressive practices against our kinfolk and people in the South when Amal fighters blew up the 3-story building of Hasan Tulayb in the [name indistinct]. Furthermore, Amal gunmen arrested a number of our kinfolk in 'Adlun.

Amal Official Reveals Plot To Assassinate Birri

NC1801155790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Attorney Milhim Qansuh, the Amal Movement's information official in the south, held a news conference before noon today to announce that the Movement's security organs had detained the members of a sabotage network who were preparing to blow up a number of Amal Movement centers and assassinate some of the Movement's officials. The network was charged with attempt to assassinate the Movement's leader, Minister Nabih Birri, during his visit to the south. Qansuh announced that Khalil Bazzi and 'Ali al-Nada were executed after confessing.

French Police Evict 'Awn Supporters From Embassy

NC1901082990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The French security forces evicted 'Awn's supporters, who were occupying the Lebanese Embassy building in Paris, this morning. The action followed a request to this effect by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

Envoy to France Referred to Disciplinary Board

NC1901112290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] After meeting with former army commander Michel 'Awn, Faruq Abu-al-Lam [Foreign Ministry secretary general in 'Awn's government] said that 'Awn's organs have referred Ambassador to France Fu'ad al-Turk to a disciplinary board as a result of the evacation of 'Awn's supporters from the embassy building in France.

Embassies Not To Renew Diplomatic Passports

NC1701102890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued a directive yesterday ordering Lebanese embassies abroad not to renew any Lebanese diplomatic or special passports before referring to the Foreign Ministry in Beirut to obtain a permit

for their renewal. The purpose of this measure is to ensure only those entitled to such passports hold them. A ministry source said: It has transpired some Lebanese officials residing in France and some students and journalists residing in various countries have obtained Lebanese diplomatic or special passports without being entitled to them.

Finance Minister Begins Visits to France, U.S.

NC1201124390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Minister 'Ali al-Khalil left West Beirut today to begin a tour which will include Paris, Washington, and New York. Before his departure, al-Khalil reviewed his mission with President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

At the airport, al-Khalil said that his tour is part of the national accord government's plan, at the request of President al-Hirawi, to hold discussions with French and U.S. officials and at the United Nations. The intent is to win support for sovereignty and for the legitmiate authority to impose its full authority on all Lebanon.

Al-Khalil stressed the need to remove all obstacles in the way of the legitimate authority at home and to implement Security Council Resolution 425 providing for the withdrawal of Israel from the Lebanese territory.

Al-Hirawi met earlier with former Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran who denied the report the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, saying: I have no knowledge of the existence of a secret agreement supplementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

Israel To Pipe Groundwater to Settlements

NC1901085290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] According to reliable sources, the Israeli occupation forces have almost completed the laying of a pipeline linking southern Lebanon with the northern part of the occupied territories. The Israeli project aims to transfer Lebanese groundwater to the newly established settlements in the northern region of occupied Palestine.

Ja'ja' Addresses Rally on Federalism, Priorities

NC1601065390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Speaking to a students' rally conducted today at the al-Hikmah cinema in al-Ashrafiyah marking the 4th anniversary of the downfall of the tripartite agreement, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' announced partition will bury Lebanon and that occupation will devour us bit by bit, annex area after area, community after community.

He called for adopting federalism and quickly opening its doors, because there are three enemies lying in wait for us and for Lebanon. The first enemy, he said, is partition, the second the 1943 formula that has infested Lebanon and its people; and the third is the concept of dissolution [tadhwib] and hegemony. Dr Ja'ja' stressed federalism will conquer partition, laxity, and dissolution, and that it and Lebanon will triumph. He added federalism is the fastest way to rescue Lebanon and the safest way of ensuring those displaced from all areas and groups can return home. He stressed there will be no let up or rest until the last displaced person returns to the last house in the remotest village in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Forces commander announced today we are facing three priorities on which we will not bargain; nor will we forget those who bypass them. He said: The first priority is the unity of the eastern area, not because it is Christian, but because it is free and the last stronghold for freedom and Lebanon. The second is the crystallization of a final political program for the new Lebanon. It is our belief the federal program is the best choice and most ideal alternative. The third is meeting society's needs. [passage omitted]

Dr Ja'ja' went on to say: Let it be known to all the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army are the two edges of the same sword, which history has unsheathed against occupation and one enemy for the sake of a united country. History alone can return this sword to its sheath. [passage omitted]

Statements Against 'Awn Distributed in East

NC1101191490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Copies of a Statement Number Four were distributed in the eastern area today, denouncing the continued detention of officers in al-Yarzah and emphasizing: From today onward, we will not keep quiet about the acts of coercion, suppression, and abduction in an area shackled by the dictatorship of the military government in al-Yarzah.

The statement, distributed in the form of paper cuttings, said:

Statement Number Four. Brother citizen, whether military or civilian. For how long will our colleague officers continue to be arrested and detained in the al-Yarzah cells? Is it a crime if they believe in the 10,452 square meters that constitute Lebanon? Is it in the name of freedom that they have been arrested because they dared to say no? Is it in the name of Lebanon's unity that they have been punished because they have transcended the barriers of humiliation and shame? Is it in the name of democracy that they have been prevented from expressing their views on the future of the army and of Lebanon? Is it in the name of combating terrorism that they now are being subjected to all kinds of torture?

From today onward, we will not keep quiet. We will not remain silent about the acts of coercion, suppression,

and abduction in an area shackled by the dictatorship of the military rule in al-Yarzah.

In another development, security sources in the eastern area have disclosed fresh information about the arrest of Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf Tahhan, former commander of the army commandos regiment. The sources indicated Tahhan and a large number of military personnel were detained after information was leaked to the al-Yarzah command Tahhan and a number of civilians might seek refuge in the western area.

The sources said former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has dismissed Lt Col Tahhan because he criticized 'Awn for the way he is governing the eastern area. 'Awn accused Tahhan of drug trafficking.

The information also revealed a wave of assassinations recently took place a few days ago in the eastern area involving capitalists, including a member of the 'Abbud family who owns the (Tapis Rama) stores, and Ghassan Matta, in addition to others who have not been mentioned in the security reports. The information indicated this wave of assassinations is connected with fees levied to finance General 'Awn's activities in the area.

Amal 'Shocked' by Jibril Attack on Mufti Qabalan

NC1201194990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Statement issued by the Central Information Bureau of the Amal Movement]

[Text] The coordinated propaganda campaign that Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, has launched against the Amal Movement has greatly surprised the movement. The campaign has involved false accusations pertaining to the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah and elsewhere.

Therefore, the Amal Movement provides the following explanation:

1. Amal at first preferred not to enter into a propaganda argument. Jibril is more aware than others the Amal Movement eagerly has blocked any attempt to kindle a new camps war, that it has declared an end to this war, and it will not be dragged anew into a whirlpool of this kind, because it honors its pledges and covenants.

The Amal Movement realizes Jibril is aware which party seeks to create tension and confrontation lines between the resistance forces of the two peoples [Lebanese and Palestinians] and which party is responsible for soliciting interventions in what is happening in the south.

2. The Amal Movement was shocked by the attack launched against His Eminence 'Allamah Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, the Ja'farite mufti, by a responsible Palestinian figure like Jibril, who is aware of the efforts Shaykh Qabalan made to restore cohesion and rectify matters during the painful camps war to put an end to it. Shaykh Qabalan then worked for the normalization of relations in a manner conducive to elimination of the negative effects of the war.

The attack on His Eminence Mufti Qabalan is an insolent act that should not have taken place or been maintained. Jibril should know the rules of allegiance oblige the person owing allegiance not to attack the ulema or to disobey religious rulings and to abide by the shari'a, especially when dealing with a (?learned) 'allamah [words indistinct].

We call on the brothers in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command to reconsider their position in this respect, to use logical and sensible language in dealing with the media, and to rectify their stand in a manner that will end vituperations. It is not fitting Brother Ahmad Jibril has let things go this far.

Media Commentary on Lebanon, 'Awn Continues

Radio Urges 'Serious' Action

JN1601162890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] During its meeting in the Algerian capital yesterday, the tripartite Arab committee prepared the report it will submit to the leaders of the tripartite Arab committee member states, who are entrusted with resolving the Lebanese crisis. The report will also be presented to Arab monarchs and heads of state. Although the details of the report have not yet been disclosed, statements made by participants in the tripartite meetings have clearly revealed the obstacle that still prevents the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. This obstacle is the problem of the rebel officer, 'Awn, who announced his rejection of the agreement and voiced his determination to go ahead with his suicidal plan to partition Lebanon in accordance with the Zionist design to fragment this fraternal country and fulfill its Torah dream and its aggressive expansionist illusions, namely, the establishment of Greater Israel.

Assessing the results achieved by the tripartite Arab committee, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid'Ahmed Ghazali touched the heart of the issue when he said that 'Awn's continued rebellion constitutes a major obstacle to saving Lebanon and achieving its unity and stability on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement. Ghazali also said: "Everybody asks us to continue without using force. But we need more support than words." By this Ghazali has revealed the suspicious background to statements being made by some international parties on their support for the legitimate Lebanese Government. At the same time, these parties are trying to tie the hands of the legitimate government under the pretext that violence should not be used. By doing this, these parties provide additional time for the partitionists to reinforce their plans against the unity of Lebanon—territory, people, and institutions.

Hence, it is the duty of all people eager to achieve Lebanon's unity, security, and stability and the coexistence of its citizens inside Lebanon, and both Arab and international parties, to link their statements on support for Lebanon—the people, and the legitimate government—with serious and real action. And they should use all available means to enable the legitimate government to regain its rights and spread its authority throughout Lebanese territory. It will then be able to carry out the many duties that remain to be done to end the tragedy from which Lebanon has been suffering for years.

The partitionist clique led by 'Awn, who is a tool used for carrying out destructive foreign plans, is trying to gain time to reinforce the suicidal plan by inciting sectarian and confessionalist conflicts and widening the existing rifts in the Lebanese social fabric. Meanwhile, this clique obtains strength and support from the Zionist enemy and the fascist Iraqi regime. This threatens to turn the current state of partition in the eastern areas into a fatal disease that no medicine or surgical operation can cure.

The tripartite Arab committee has announced that it will continue its efforts to support the legitimate Lebanese Government to achieve its goal of reclaiming Lebanon from its usurpers and liberating its territory from the hateful Zionist occupation, which not only threatens Lebanon, but also the whole Arab nation. The al-Ta'if agreement, the outcome of great efforts and the agony of the Lebanese brothers, cannot admit any new interpretation or amendment, because it was supported by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people and is backed by almost all Arab and international parties, and because it has produced a responsible legitimate government. This government is working seriously and honestly to implement the provisions of that agreement. But with all these positive aspects tending to serve the agreement, we should remain cautious and demand decisive measures to speed up the process of salvation, expel the rebels, and abort their partitionist plans. This is because the current stage is very delicate and contains serious dangers that may harm Lebanon and its future.

Hence, we should reaffirm that the battle waged by the legitimate Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people and their honest national leadership against the partition plans requires serious and effective support from those who believe in the need to maintain Lebanese unity. It also requires reinforcement of the national situation and an end to useless bloodshed, because any fragmentation of the Lebanese ranks and any maneuvering and procrastination by any parties will certainly serve the partitionists and the Zionist plans they are trying to implement.

Commentary Urges End to 'Rebellion'

JN1701172290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: After his destructive war that lasted more than 6 months and killed thousands of Lebanese citizens in East and West Beirut; after his threats against the Lebanese deputies who met in al-Ta'if to prepare the national reconciliation document; after his terrorist measures against the homes of a number of deputies in East Beirut; and after his statements that confirm the continuation of his rebellion and decisions through which he is trying to ensure partition and fragmentation—after all this, the rebellious officer Michel 'Awn issued an order that has aroused the derision and condemnation of Lebanese citizens and Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion.

The decision issued by the rebel 'Awn yesterday calls on media in East Beirut to ignore the presidential, parliamentary, and governmental posts and titles—particularly those of the president of the Republic, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the prime minister,

and other ministers. This decision is not the first in a series of stupid decisions and statements issued by 'Awn. Through these decisions and statements, 'Awn is attempting to perpetuate his tyranny over the Presidential Palace in B'abda and to consolidate partition and the Zionist presence in East Beirut, which have been condemned in various Lebanese, Arab, and international circles.

Lebanese press sources described 'Awn's decision as repressive and fascist and that it is leading to the confiscation of liberties and excluding the media from its role in serving Lebanon. First and foremost, this decision is a blow against the freedom of expression and opinion and is a new attempt by the general to push Lebanon toward partition and fragmentation. Through this decision, 'Awn wants the sons of East Beirut to hear his falsehoods and his lies only; and he wants the helpless sons of East Beirut to hear and read only what he imposes by force on East Beirut.

Thus, all signs in Lebanon confirm that the current abnormal situation in East Beirut cannot continue; and that the strangling isolation surrounding the rebellious officer Michel 'Awn will push him into committing more irrational acts that will expose his true and tyrannical nature. This is particularly true after his financial scandals and embezzlements made headlines in the world press, and reemphasize the fact that the rebellious general is only concerned with satisfying his lust for tyranny and wealth and that he is not concerned about the interests of Lebanon and its citizens. It has become clear that the atmosphere of grievance and restlessness in East Beirut is intensifying as a result of the terrorism carried out by the rebellious general against the Lebanese citizens and places them face to face with a direct and daily threat to their security and lives.

Hence, the Lebanese Government is making efforts to use the momentum of Arab and international support and backing in the service of Lebanese interests in general, and to foil the suspect proposals and ideas that intrude on Lebanon's unity and its people's solidarity. Such efforts should succeed in ending the partition situation and the mutiny, and consequently, consolidate Lebanon's unity, so that Lebanon can begin, in a practical way, to build and reconstruct.

The rebellious general's insistence on rejecting Arab and international opinion, and that of the Lebanese people, stemming from his connection with the partitionist and destructive Zionist schemes, makes it necessary for the Arab nation and the international community to translate their support for the legitimate Lebanese Government into firm positions and urgent measures. This must be done to end the state of rebellion represented by 'Awn and to implement the decisions adopted by the national reconciliation government, particularly since this government has given the diplomatic efforts all the consideration they deserve. This government has categorically declared its determination to achieve the unity of Lebanon—territory, people, and institutions—within the framework of the reforms that constitute the solid basis for ending the Lebanese problem.

Hence, the importance of such measures is underlined in terms of the effort to achieve overall success for the Arab solution, which has achieved important positive results as embodied in the al-Ta'if agreement. That agreement was implemented from the ground up by the establishment of the legitimate authority represented by the president of the Republic, the national reconciliation government and by the the Lebanese people's support for this authority. This implementation was done after the tripartite Arab committee became certain that the rebellious 'Awn was the only obstacle to it, and that he was the one obstructing the achievement of the unity of Lebanon, its territory, people, and institutions.

Arab efforts to support the legitimate government in Lebanon must be united and translated into practical measures to implement the Arab solution that will end partition and abort the Zionist scheme to split Lebanon and the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH, AL-THAWRAH Comment

JN1901084990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Commentaries published by Damascus-based newspapers today concentrate on the intent of 'Awn's campaign against the Lebanese press and the failed wagers of Lebanon's enemies seeking to fragment the country. They also focus on the required Arab response to the Zionist aggression and Israel's position, which fully contradicts the meaning of just peace and the requirements for its achievement.

AL-BA'TH deals with the dimensions and intent of 'Awn's oppressive campaign against the Lebanese press. The paper says:

The general, who adores celebrity, even if it is the celebrity of a traitor, has been upset by the freedom of Lebanese writers, who—in spite of their different ideologies—keep talking about the unity of Lebanon in terms of territory and people, and who remain the most responsive voice to hopes and pains.

The principal reason Michel 'Awn is upset is the Lebanese writers' insistence that Lebanon is one, even if those who have particular interests may differ over these interests. Since 'Awn is persistently seeking to partition and fragment Lebanon, he tries to strike out against the press and impose his own news in a step that constitutes the beginning of the crime planned by the enemies of Lebanon and its Arabism.

Hence, 'Awn's problem is not with the writers who denounce him. His problem is with a united Lebanon. This is because as long as there is hope in restoring Lebanon's unity, the Zionist Mosad's reserve general in Lebanon will always feel threatened.

Since the general has a vendetta against the press because it exposed his excessive wealth, which he amassed at the expense of Lebanon in general and at the expense of those whom he claims to represent in particular, his step against the press is a vindictive one. That is the main reason, or excuse, for Michel 'Awn's campaign against the press and journalists in Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the wagers of Lebanon's enemies have been lost and their partitionist plots foiled. It stresses that settling things and ending 'Awn's abnormal phenomenon in East Beirut must be the first priority in the legitimate Lebanese Government's program.

Al-THAWRAH says: Those who think that 'Awn has begun to automatically retreat from his rebellion are mistaken.

The paper adds: The partitionist phenomenon has linked its fate and existence to the Zionist plot which aims to fragment Lebanon. In light of this understanding, the necessary measures must be taken to remove the phenomenon and rescue Lebanon from its grave present and future consequences.

Ever since the situation erupted on the Lebanese arena, Lebanon's enemies have been wagering on imposing their abnormal state of affairs to prepare for the implementation of their partitionist plot, one episode after the other. Therefore, whenever Lebanon sees signs of hope in a solution and an end to the dilemma, the anti-Lebanon forces move through the partitionist phenomenon in East Beirut to kill off the signs of hope in order to murder the unity of Lebanon—territory and people.

In spite of this, the wagers have been lost. Lebanon's enemies have not achieved—and will never achieve—any of their plot's objectives on the ground; the partitionist phenomenon has not benefited from its arrogant oppressive and terrorist measures. However, this phenomenon, represented by the rebel 'Awn, shows signs of nervousness, anxiety, and psychopathy. This shows that he is in a state of despair, or in the second half of the road leading to the end.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH states: The Zionist entity did not need to give further evidence to prove its aggressive and racist nature, and to prove that it is an entity that fully contradicts the concept of just peace and the requirements for its achievement through the acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights and their exercise of these rights. Nevertheless, fresh proof came from the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir in a speech he delivered to members of the Likud. Shamir said that intensive immigration requires a greater Israel because every new Jew must be able to live anywhere he chooses in Israel.

AL-THAWRAH refers to the hostile Zionist scheme to set up the so-called Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile, and to Sharon's additional talk about Arab oil sources in the Gulf and the Maghreb.

AL-THAWRAH says: Arabs, all Arabs, are undoubtedly concerned about that threat because it is a comprehensive one. This picture of the Zionist scheme in its most dangerous phase calls for Arabs to reconsider their position on the Zionist threat and prepare themselves to counter and defeat it by returning to the roots of pan-Arab confrontation, as was demonstrated during the October [1973] War.

Papers on Soviet Ties, Arab Solidarity

JN1801092090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Syrian-Soviet Relations and the New Horizons", TISHRIN stresses in its commentary today that these relations have become an established fact of the regional political situation. It says these relations are deep-rooted in contemporary history as they successfully passed the test of hard times and stood fast against all strong waves of conspiracy that several times tried to hit them.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union has opened new horizons for promoting relations between the two countries and taking them to new advanced stages. These relations have been given special attention by the two leaders al-Asad and Gorbachev, and this produced increasing progress and stability in Syrian-Soviet relations over the past years.

TISHRIN concludes: The friendship between Syria and the Soviet Union is as firm and entrenched as the great Euphrates Dam, which is one of the good fruits of this friendship. This friendship will continue to grow and develop as it reflects the hopes of our masses, bolsters our national and pan-Arab struggle, supports the Arabs against colonialistic and Zionist plots, and serves the interests of the friendly Soviet people.

In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the Zionist ambitions and the serious threats to the Arab presence and future. It stresses that the true Zionist danger threatens all the Arabs without exception. However, the great burden of confronting the Zionist onslaught, which is supported by international imperialism, lies first on the shoulders of Syria. Syria is the center of Arab steadfastness and its cornerstone. It is through Syria and its unyielding position that Arab steadfastness can be built, and it is through its steadfastness and strength that the power defending the Arab's present, future, and right for life and freedom can be established. Syria's strength, therefore, is a pan-Arab issue before it is a national Syrian issue, and so is Syria's steadfastness.

AL-BA'TH adds: We possess all the factors of steadfastness and have the power to entrench these factors depending on ourselves, common Arab action, and genuine Arab solidarity. We also solidify them by safeguarding our developed relations with friends and by

dealing knowledgeably, realistically, and in a principled manner with the current international situation. AL-BA'TH concludes: All these factors cause us to be optimistic about the future and confident of victory no matter how great the perils are. These perils must push us toward further action and effort to invest all our elements of triumph leaving no room for leniency or fear from the ongoing campaigns of pressure or frustration. We stand firmly on solid ground, and all attempts to emplant despair, frustration, and division cannot lower the spirit of our people and our firm pan-Arab outlook. Our will and determination will always remain the decisive factor in all the fateful challenges to the present and future of our nation.

Under the headline "the Harvest of the Deviant General", AL-THAWRAH says, in one of its editorials today, that the key figures in the area under the control of the deviant General 'Awn and his clique are called upon more than ever before to solidify their confrontation of the spreading deviation and foil its effects and results. These figures are called upon to hasten to support the legitimate authority and to deepen their backing of it despite the terrorism and tyranny practiced by 'Awn and his clique. The national issue requires further sacrifice for the sake of a nationally united Lebanon with an Arab role and identity. Concluding, AL-THAWRAH urges the legitimate authority to use its great and many capabilities in the battle of the homeland against its enemy and those who intend evil for it. It calls for the final collapse of the phenomenon of rebellion against the legitimate government so that this can be a lesson to those who need it.

TISHRIN Comments on Shamir's 'Greater Israel'

JN1601111890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 16 Jan (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN affirms that the statements made by the Zionist enemy leaders on peace in the region are no more than lies enabling them to procrastinate and prevaricate to stay longer in occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that the statement made by enemy Prime Minister Shamir to the effect that mass Jewish immigration requires the creation of Greater Israel is further evidence corroborating that Israeli policy is based on aggression and expansion. The paper adds: Zionist leaders view the occupied Arab territories as Zionist biblical lands that form part of Greater Israel.

The paper indicates that Israel does not recognize any of the Palestinians' rights as a people. It adds that the Shamir-led government will not make a decision relinquishing control over the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinian people to achieve peace in the region. The paper goes on to say: Besides, Israel does not recognize the Palestinian people's representatives. No, it is looking for agent Palestinian negotiators to negotiate with them on accepting continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza under the guise of administration but that rule does not allow for any form of freedom or independence.

Concluding its editorial, the paper affirms that the Arabs can attain real peace only when they acquire strength and realize unity. The paper further asserts that effective Arab solidarity is an added strength that can support the Palestinian people and their rights.

TISHRIN Views Tripartite Committee Meeting

JN1601081590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Tripartite Committee Stands Before Its Responsibilities," TISHRIN says: The Arab Tripartite Committee is meeting in Algiers. Naturally, this meeting will not aim only to assess what has taken place—although it is important to make such an assessment—but to draw up a plan for future moves to achieve a qualitative change in support of the legitimate government in Lebanon. It is no longer acceptable to merely express support and backing. That support and backing must be transformed into a tangible reality to implement the resolutions of the national reconciliation government, especially since that government has given diplomatic peace efforts the attention they deserve and responded to all mediations out of its concern for sparing the country a new bloodbath.

However, concern for solving the question through peaceful means should not mean that the government should abandon its right to spread its control over all Lebanese territories or to achieve unity of territory, people, and institutions within the context of reform, which alone forms the framework for ending the Lebanese dilemma.

This is what the Arab Tripartite Committee must confirm in its report, which it will submit to the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, and consequently to the Arab countries, to formulate a line that reflects the need to implement the Arab solution in Lebanon, which will end the partitionist phenomenon and abort the Zionist plot to fragment Lebanon and the Arab region.

Al-Asad Receives U.S. Senator Arlen Specter

JN1501144490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Senator Arlen Specter at 1130 today. U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian attended. Talks during the meeting centered on the Middle East situation. President al-Asad stressed Syria's eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region through the proposed international conference.

Al-Shar' Receives GDR Deputy Foreign Minister

JN1701190690 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this evening Dr Heinz-Dieter Winter, German Democratic Republic [GDR] deputy foreign minister. Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal and the GDR ambassador in Damascus attended.

The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and means of enhancing and developing them, and the Arab situation and international developments, especially in Europe.

Afghanistan

Iran-Based Factions Criticize Election Plans

LD1701182490 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA—The nine-party Islamic coalition of Afghan mujahideen along with several independent groups announced its viewpoints for elections in Afghanistan in a statement here today.

Dismissing as 'incomplete and impractical' the two election plans put forth by the 7-party Pashto alliance in Peshawar, the statement said that Afghan people should determine their fate through popular elections and elect their real representatives at the voting to be held under suitable circumstances.

The plans of the 7-party alliance, in addition to being unilateral and one-sided have not taken into account another hindering factor, it said, namely the severe winter in Afghanistan.

All eligible Afghan men and women including the refugees living in Iran and Pakistan should participate in the elections, the most appropriate time for which are the months of June and July, said the statement.

The coalition, which along with other ethnic groups has been left out of the so-called interim cabinet set up by the Pashto alliance in Peshawar, said that regulations for the elections should be complied and approved in consultation with all groups involved in the struggle for liberation, including the 7-party Pashto alliance, the Islamic Revolutionary Council and other independent combatant groups.

'Any other plan would be incomplete and unsuccessful,' the statement made it clear.

It also warned that 'bitter experiences of the past' concerning the unilateral setting up of the so-called provisional government could lead to the despair and disappointment of Afghan Muslims.

9-Party Coalition Members Hold News Conference

LD1001210490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Five members of the Council of the nine-party coalition of Afghanistan held a news conference today and explained the latest political developments in that country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq, spokesman for the nine-party coalition of Afghanistan, criticized the opening of the French Embassy in Kabul, calling it a plot designed to strengthen the Kabul regime. He said that no development inside Afghanistan can achieve any results without the real presence of the people of that country. Now the representatives of the nine-party coalition of Afghanistan are conducting talks with the seven-party coalition in Peshawar. Their talks are designed to bring their points of view closer together.

He said: Following the recent developments in Eastern Europe, the Najibullah regime, in an effort to delay the changes which are coming, has removed the words Khalq and Parcham from the name of the country.

Condemning the recent conspiracies in Afghanistan aimed at holding one-sided elections, Mohaqqeq denied that the mujahidin has fired missiles at residential areas. He said that because of existing difficulties, the formation of a new government would not be possible.

In conclusion, the spokesman of the nine-party coalition of Afghanistan referred to the new groups joining the coalition in Iran, and said: With the joining of a new group headed by Taleqani, the president of the Afghanistan Unity Council [shora-ye Vahdat Afghanistan], the nine-party coalition council will be soon transformed into a 10-party coalition.

PDPA Central Committee Politburo Holds Session

LD1901065690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 18, BAKHTAR: Session of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) was held here on January 17, 1990.

The session after discussing and assessing works of the commission of the PDPA CC on the affairs of frontier ethnic groups and tribes pointed out that the commission has accomplished remarkable achievements on the organisation of political, military, economic, social and cultural affairs of the frontier provinces.

Also, work and activities of the members of the party in the leadership organs of local sovereignty in Helmand Province, were discussed in the session. The session pinpointed that the party and state organisations of Helmand for the maintenance of security and strengthening of state sovereignty and adoption of effective measures in the provinces, as well as extension of security posts, paved the ground for establishing of contacts with the opposition groups and creation of people's battalion in the province.

The Politburo session dutified [as received] the party committee of the Helmand Province to permanently assess activities of party cadres in the state organs in that province as well.

Additionally, the session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC assessed a series of important intra-party issues as well as domestic and international matters and adopted necessary decisions on the topics.

Keshtmand Delivers Statement on Plan, Budget

LD1801065690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 18 Dec 89

["S.A. Keshtmand Statement"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 17, BAKHTAR—During the years of revolution, current Afghan year started March 20, 1983, is completely an exceptional one, because in the past nine months of the year, planned targets as well as state budget under special political military and economic conditions, were implemented, said Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] in his statement, delivered in session of Council of Ministers, held yesterday.

The withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, intensification of war against the Afghan people by war-monger extremists, foreign interferences and aggressions, economic sabotage, blockade of highways, seiging of cities, rocket attacks, terroristic action and direct invasions on Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khowst, brought about military-political situation in the country, but despite all these actions, the Armed Forces and peace-loving people of Afghanistan, while supporting national reconciliation policy, not only resist against it, but inflected crashing blows on them, and opened new chapter in the modern history of the country, he said.

The government not only struggle against internal problems but also against external ones as well which impede economic growth of the country. Amongst them military invasion from Pakistani territory, economic sanctions and sabotage as well as trade are of serious concern. Unilateral stopping of assistance by a number of countries as well as organisations attached to them and USA obstructionistic stand vis-a-vis humanitarian assistance through UN organizations to the RA can be considered as continuation of pressures, obstacles and hostile and inhuman actions. But despite of this situation, successes were achieved in the implementation of socio-economic development plan and state budget which depict partial keeping of level of production in a number of economic branches and ensurance of partial growth in a number of planned indicators.

During the past nine months, S.A. Keshtmand said, 106,5 thousand [number as received] tonnes wheat and flour, 30,000 tonnes bread, 13,000 tonnes vegetable oil, 17,000 tonnes sugar, 1,200 tonnes meat, then million eggs, 90,900 tonnes coal, and 186,600 tonnes fuel have been distributed over inhabitants and institutions by the government.

Over one billion Afghanis through projective amendments and through the utilization of reserve development fund has been allocated for the financement of 15 new projects included in the plan of this year. Also, 500 million Afghanis have been spent for the erection of security posts, blindages [as received] and security quarters in the country.

Additionally, an amount of 1,1 billion [number as received] Afghanis has been allocated for a number of projects requiring more money, Keshtmand said.

To help those affected by the extremist rocket attacks, a number of hospitals and their emergency wards have been equipped with adequate facilities in the capital. Eleven first aid services clinics are estabished in Kabul. A large sum of money was distributed to the individuals and families affected by the enemy rocket attacks as well, he added.

Results of the implementation of the planned targets during the past 9 months in different socio-econmic sectors in the country is the manifest of the fact that the value of products in the state, mixed, cooperative and private sectors of the Afghan economy reached to 1,71 billion [number as received] Afghanis.

During the said period 18 projects in the private sector of the Afghan economy with a final capital of 1,8 billion [number as received] Afghanis have been approved. With the activisation of which 2364 persons will be employed, he said.

For the increment of agricultural products, an amount of 78,2 thousand [number as received] tonnes of chemical fertilisers, 5135 tonnes of cotton seed, 4,2 [number as received] tonnes of beetroot seed, 8000 tonnes of wheat sowing seed and insecticides and pesticides valued 81,2 million [number as received] Afghanis were distributed over farmers and animal breeders and cooperatives. The distribution of cotton seed shows a growth of 18 per cent than the planned target compared with the same period of the last year, he went on to say.

Also, during the said 3 quarters of the year, 11 agricultural cooperatives with the membership of 836 farmers and with a total capital of 178 thousand Afghanis, which are covering 2,2 thousand [number as received] hectares of land, were newly established and 7 agricultural cooperatives were reactivised. The number of these cooperatives now reach to 662, showing an increase of 22 cooperatives than last year, he stressed.

Water for 600,000 hectares of land has been provided. The target for the preparation of new lands for cultivation have been realised. Eleven deep wells of potable water have been dug out in Kabul and provinces, showing 100 per cent realisation of the 9 months plan, he said.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added that totally 500 heavy duty traucks and 696 fuel tankers have ben provided for transportational institutions from the gratis aid of the Soviet Union.

In the past nine months about 4,4 million [number as received] tons of goods were planned in the state and private sector to be transferred.

With the implementation of 64 per cent of plan and an increase of 24 per cent compared to the nine months of the last year, totally 9,6 thousand [number as received] tons of goods have been transferred through air.

Circulation of the retail and wholesale trade in the state, mixed and cooperative sectors reached over 32,8 billion [number as received] Afghanis. For instance, in the nine months of the year 164,7 million [number as received]

dollars have been gained through export of carpets, rugs, leather wares, including karakol pelts, fruits and medicine herbs and cumin.

In the fields of education, higher and vocational education, public health and information and culture, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers went on to say, a number of specific tasks have been carried out and more than 70 small and medium size state-run economic and cultural projects have been fully or partially completed and made ready for utilization.

He added that in the recent years reduction and shortage have been noticed in production and distribution of electricity in Kabul city and do not meet (?requirements of) ever increasing Kabul citizens.

S.A Keshtmand added that backwardness has been noticed in the field of chemical and light industries, medicine production, production of construction materials, woods processing industry and carpentry related to the private sector and totally 12 industrial and construction institutions in the private sector have been inactive due to some causes.

He went on to say that as a result of lack of transfer of adequate amounts of urea fertilizer and lack of phospate fertilizer, distribution of chemical fertilizers does not take place reguarly which caused reduction in production of agricultural products such as cotton.

Pointing to the shortcomings in transport system of the country, lack of effective usage from the capacity of the private transport sector has brought about problems in the field of transportation in the country. For instance, the amount of the goods which have been transferred by this sector reaches to 415,2 thousands [number as received] of tons or 30,2 [number as received] percent as planned. As a whole plan of transfer of goods due to the special situation of the highways, robbery and setting the vehicles on fire carrying primary goods, by the extremists, has not been achieved satisfactorily.

Najibullah Sends Message to Kenya, Norway

LD1901070190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 18, BAKHTAR—Message of Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] was submitted to Daniel Arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya, by Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign affairs minister of the RA during a meeting took place in Kenya presidential palace to him. [sentence as received]

During the meeting, [word indistinct] Kenyan foreign affairs minister was also present, Karmand informed the Kenyan president on latest developments in Afghanistan, military-political situation of the country as well as peaceful proposals set forth by the RA Government and demanded Kenyan Republic to cooperate in ensurance of peace in Afghanistan.

Daniel Arap Moi, while thanking President Najibullah message [as received] stated that the Republic of Kenya supports peaceful and constructive proposals and initiatives of the RA and considered them as the only way for solving the Afghan problem.

He stressed that starting dialogue among Afghans and full and strict observance of the Geneva Accords are the best ways for ensurance peace in Afghanistan.

He remarked that the Republic of Kenya alongside with the United Nations Organization, Non-aligned Movement and all peace-loving countries of the world will spare no efforts in rendering assistance to the Afghan people for restoration of peace in their homeland.

Besides, the message of President Najibullah addressed to the prime minister of Norway was delivered by 'Abdul Baqi Samandari, deputy foreign affairs minister of the RA during a meeting took place in the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Norway.

During the meeting, A. Samandari, informed on latest developments taken place in Afghanistan as well as political military situation of the country.

The Norway side supported the efforts of the RA for political solution of the Afghan issue and expressed further readiness for rendering assistance to the Afghan people in the field.

India

Delhi Warns Pakistan on Supporting 'Terrorists'

BK1901030690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] India has warned Pakistan that if Islamabad continues to support terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab it will not remain idle and will take the necessary action for normalizing the situation. Addressing a press conference in Hazaribag in Bihar yesterday, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said that India has already communicated its protests to Mr Sattar, the special envoy of the Pakistan prime minister, when he visited New Delhi recently.

'Friendship' Treaty Before Troops Leave Sri Lanka

BK1301082590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] India and Sri Lanka are working on a long-term treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, while talking to newsmen in Trivandrum yesterday. He said the treaty would be signed before the deinduction of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka.

Replying to a question, Mr Gujral said that the India-Sri Lanka [accord] signed earlier was on specific issues,

whereas the proposed treaty would cover long-term measures for safeguarding the relationship of the two countries.

Reportage on Visit of French Prime Minister

Prime Ministers Meet

BK1801155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] France is to make all-out efforts to step up its import from India and also to secure a better market for Indian goods in the European Economic Community. The high-level French delegation led by the prime minister, Mr Michel Rocard, which arrived in New Delhi today, gave this assurance to the Indian side. The two sides signed a protocol on agriculture and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in nuclear power, telecommunications, space, science, and defense matters.

The prime ministers of the two countries met separately for about 45 minutes. Mr Rocard appreciated India's initiatives to improve relations with its neighbors, particularly with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Welcoming Mr Rocard, the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, spoke about the similarity in democratic traditions between India and France. The two leaders agreed to further expand the existing level of bilateral cooperation.

The Indian side requested France to help solve the problems of low prices of raw materials and relieve trade imbalance.

The agriculture protocol, which was signed by the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, and the French agriculture minister, Mr Nallet, covers storage of farm products, fruits and vegetables and preservation and processing of milk.

Comments on Arms Sales

BK1901100190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The French prime minister, Mr Michel Rocard, says that France will not sell any arms in South Asia which might incite armed conflict in the region. He was replying to a question about a reported French move to sell Mirage-2000 fighter planes to Pakistan at a news conference in New Delhi today. Mr Rocard clarified that no decision to this effect has been taken and developments in the subcontinent will be taken into consideration before clinching any deal. He expressed the hope that India-Pakistan relations will improve in the coming days, as the two governments appear to be committed on this.

When asked about the possibility of India going for the French field guns, Mr Rocard said India as a sovereign country will exercise its choice and diplomatic pressures will not be applied. The French prime minister said that India's relations with France have now entered a period of expansion in commercial, economic, and cultural fields.

Later, Mr Rocard called on the president, Mr Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] and had wide-ranging exchange of views with him. Senior officials of the two sides were present.

Discusses Cambodia, Afghanistan

BK1901104090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 19 (AFP)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard emphasised Friday [19 January] the urgency of the need to end the Cambodian conflict, warning that a worst-case scenario could result if efforts for a settlement failed.

"If no peaceful solution is found in Cambodia, the worst is to be feared," Mr. Rocard told reporters on the last day of a two-day official visit to New Delhi. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Rocard said Paris had "no objection" to an Australian peace plan that aimed at transferring the administration of Cambodia temporarily to the United Nations, but he added that it was not a final solution.

For the Australian plan to be implemented, Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen would have to agree that his Hanoi-backed government be dismantled. Canberra has proposed that, in return, the resistance guerrilla coalition give up Cambodia's seat at the U.N. General Assembly, which it has held since Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 and shortly after put Mr. Hun Sen in power.

Mr. Rocard said the Australian proposal "is obviously interesting" but would need lengthy negotiations and only solve a "part of the problem." He did not elaborate, but expressed Paris's readiness to host new meetings aimed at solving the Cambodian crisis.

Mr. Rocard was speaking three days after the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain and France—ended a meeting in Paris with the agreement that the United Nations should play a greater role in ending the conflict. The meeting was seen to have improved the chances of reconvening the 21-nation Paris conference that was suspended August 31 after the four warring Cambodian factions failed to agree on how the country should be governed in the run-up to elections.

Mr. Rocard, the first head of government to visit India since the National Front administration of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh took power here in December, said his visit had helped chart future Franco-Indian cooperation.

His talks with Mr. V.P. Singh here mainly focussed on possible collaboration in areas such as nuclear energy,

space and telecommunications, in addition to regional issues such as Afghanistan and international topics.

Mr. Rocard said both Paris, which recently decided to reopen its embassy in Kabul, and New Delhi wanted the Afghan conflict to be solved through negotiations.

The decision to reopen the Kabul mission, criticised by the Afghan mujahidin, was taken after considering the security situation in the Afghan capital, he said. France closed its mission last year, along with other Western governments, amid fears that chaos would follow the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan completed February 15.

The French premier said the changes taking place in Eastern Europe do not "take anything away from our policy to contribute better to the North-South dialogue" and he affirmed Paris's commitment to solving the debt problems of developing countries.

He expressed concern at the unrest rocking parts of the Soviet Union, saying: "We are worried about what is happening in the Soviet Union and its impact on the balance of power."

Mr. Rocard, who on Thursday evening attended the closing ceremonies of a year-long festival of French culture, was to leave later Friday for Bangkok, where the Cambodian issue was expected to be prominent.

His visit, expected to spur new business deals here, produced agreements for a water-management program, including control of industrial pollution, and an agreement on agricultural cooperation.

Leaves Delhi for Bangkok

BK1901130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The French prime minister, Mr Michel Rocard, says that France will not sell arms in South Asia which might incite armed conflict in the region. [passage omitted]

Mr Rocard later left for Bangkok after a 2-day visit.

Chemicals Cooperation Pact With USSR Signed

BK1801043890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union signed in New Delhi today a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the fields of chemicals and allied products. The protocol envisages the establishment of a permanent joint working group for organizing exchange of experts, assistance in technology transfers, and setting up of joint ventures.

External Affairs Minister To Attend Iran Meeting

BK1701091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral, will pay a 3-day official visit to Iran from the 29th of this month. During his stay, Mr Gujral will attend the meeting of the Indian-Iran Joint Economic Commission.

Elections for Eight States, Pondicherry Set

BK1801081090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Elections to eight state assemblies and the Union Territory of Pondicherry will be held on the 27th of next month. The states are Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Rajasthan.

Announcing the program in New Delhi today, the chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, said that the last date for filing of nominations will be the 3d of February, scrutiny will take place on the 5th, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is 7th. Mr Peri Sastri said elections for the constituencies where elections were countermanded earlier will be held simultaneously. [passage on other details omitted]

Jammu, Kashmir Government Resigns 18 Jan

BK1901031090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah has resigned. The National Conference-Congress I coalition ministry submitted the resignation to the state governor in Jammu late last night after a 3-hour cabinet meeting at the residence of Dr Abdullah.

Nothing has been stated officially for the reasons for the resignation, but our Jammu correspondent, Ajit Singh, understands that the immediate provocation for the resignation of the 33 month-old ministry seemed to be the announcement of the appointment of Mr Jag Mohan as the new governor of the state.

Dr Farroq Abdullah yesterday cut short his Srinagar tour and air-dashed to Delhi for a meeting with the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The state food and supplies minister, Mr Mangat Ram Sharma, told our correspondent that Dr Abdullah will give details of the resignation of his cabinet at a news conference in Jammu today.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman in New Delhi has clarified that Dr Farooq Abdullah was consulted on the appointment of Mr Jag Mohan as governor.

Governor's Rule Imposed on Jammu, Kashmir State

BK1901124490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir has been placed under governor's rule. A proclamation to this effect was issued by the new governor, Mr Jag Mohan, soon after he was sworn in this afternoon. The state assembly has been kept in suspended animation.

Our Jammu correspondent, Ajit Singh, reports that governor's rule climaxed hectic political activities in the state during the last 2 days. The outgoing chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, submitted the resignation of his 33-month-old National Conference-Congress-I ministry around midnight last night.

Iran

Continued Reportage, Comment on Soviet Events

'Dozens' of Azeris Cross Border

LD1801114890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Dozens of people from Soviet Azerbaijan crossed the Iranian-Soviet border and entered Iranian territory around noon today. Border officials of both countries did not intervene in any way. According to a report of the Central News Unit, these people were chanting Islamic slogans, as they crossed.

Visiting Azeris Return to Azerbaijan

LD1801155290 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Poldasht (E. Azarbayjan), Jan. 18, IRNA—Hundreds of Iranian border residents saw off some 400 of their Muslim brethren from across the Aras River return to Soviet Azerbaijan Thursday.

During the emotion-filled 4-hour farewell ceremony, both hosts and guests vociferously cried Allah-o-akbar (God is the greatest). The Soviet Azeris who share a common religion, culture, lanaguage and even family ties with their Iranian brethren, left aboard two boats after several days stay in the Islamic Republic.

The Soviet guests appreciated the hospitality accorded them by their Iranian kinsmen, and received as parting gifts, volumes of the holy Koran, prayer books and other souvenirs.

For the past few weeks despite freezing temperatures, River Aras which divides Soviet Azerbaijan from the Iranian side, has seen massive gatherings especially on its northern banks, with several Soviet Muslims crossing into Iran.

According to reports from the areas, no gathering took place on the Soviet side of the border today, probably due to the state of emergency declared in Soviet Azerbaijan.

'Thousands' Arrive for Friday Prayers

LD1901103990 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbayjan Prov., Jan. 19, IRNA—Thousands of Soviet Azeris crossed the border point of Bileh Savar and entered Iran Friday morning intending to take part in the Friday congregational prayers in the region.

This occurred despite the sealing off of Pol Dasht and Jolfa border points by Soviet military forces after a state of emergency was announced in the area by the Soviet leadership. A large number of women, children and elderly are among the incomers.

More than 5,000 Soviet Azeris arrived here Thursday afternoon through this border region. They were warmly greeted by Iranian border dwellers and after touring the town and receiving gifts such as copies of the holy Koran and pictures of the late Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i gradually returned home.

Bileh Savar is one of the land border points beteween the two countries.

Commentary on 'Unrest,' 'Clashes'

LD1801131390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the recent unrest and violent clashes between the Azeris and Armenians in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, and Karabakh, which killed and wounded a large number of people, the Soviet Government has declared a state of emergency in the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia and dispatched a large number of its military forces to these regions. The news of the recent violent clashes in Caucasus, which has had extensive repercussions inside and outside the Soviet Union, has raised concern about future developments of this region.

In recent years, since the assumption of power by the new leadership in the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev has made great efforts to create an open political and cultural climate in the USSR. Thanks to the glasnost program, the people in the southern republics of the Soviet Union, including the Azeris, have taken the opportunity to voice their demands and express their cultural and religious feelings, which had been crushed under Stalinist rule. Perhaps one could attribute the freedom of religious and cultural expression as a welcome result of glasnost and perestroyka for the people of

the Soviet Union, particularly the Muslim people in the southern regions of the USSR, thanks to their trust in the new leadership.

The dispatch of military forces to the region of the Caucasus and the declaration of a state of emergency in these areas, have aroused concern that the course of events in Azerbaijan and Armenia and the deployment of military forces might lead to a catastrophe. Such a move, which is not of course very likely, could be called a catastrophe because it can lead to the public's disillusion with perestroyka and glasnost—the main assets of the Soviet leadership for successful implementation of these progams. No doubt this issue will have harmful effects on public opinion in the USSR and even in the world. On the other hand, it seems that the Western world, which is following developments in the Soviet Union with a high degree of obsession, considers the current situation in Caucasia as the best opportunity for realizing its sinister objectives in this region; and naturally any harsh move of the troops in this region can serve the interests of the West.

In view of what we have said above, it is unlikely that something undesirable will happen at this end, for the Soviet leaders have stressed that the objective of dispatching troops to the region of Causacia and the declaration of a state of emergency in the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia is to maintain order and to prevent further bloodshed. Nevertheless, the leader of the Islamic revolution yesterday recommended to the Soviet Government that improper response against the Islamic feelings of that country's Muslims should be avoided. At any rate, the Soviet leadership has so far shown that in solving the problems of the ethnic groups it acts with tolerance and realism; and the responsible Soviet authorities have often said that the solution to problems of these kind is not to be found through using the military levers. It seems that the wisest method is to create order and peace in the tense regions through peaceful means, so that the necessary steps can later be taken later to reach logical and prudent solutions, which would link the long-term interests of the Soviet Union with those of the ethnic groups.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1901154290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Today the monotheistic and faithful people of Iran gathered in the premises of Friday prayers and performed this eternal Muhammadan rite.

The hezbollahi ummah of Tehran, with their extensive presence at the University of Tehran and the surrounding streets, also performed the religious-political Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani. In his Friday prayers sermons, while expressing congratulations for the birthday of Her Holiness Fatimah the pure, peace be upon her, referred to the position of women in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran chose this day because of the importance of women in society so that it can tell the world that the model for Iranian women is Her Holiness Fatimah the pure, peace be upon her.

Explaining the movement of the Christian church during the past few centuries in confronting science and scientists which led to the rejection of the church in Europe, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: During the Renaissance, when the church was pushed back, instead of protesting against this special move by the church, religion as a whole and all popular traditions and practices were rejected, as were human values, including women's chastity and covering the body. With the propagation of science and technology and the replacement of spiritual sciences by material sciences, the capitalists made use of women as a means of lust and for the sake of the advancement of their vile goals.

The speaker then referred to the conspiracy of imperialism to suppress women and use them as tools and said: With this aim world arrogance made use of its agents in different parts of the world so that it could move against the nature of women, which is bashfulness and chastity. In Iran it made use of Reza Khan and through a pre-arranged program it tried to spread the nonobservance of the hejab in Iranian society. However, despite all his efforts and the efforts of his son [Mohammad Reza Shah] they did not succeed in achieving their goal.

Emami-Kashani aded: Today, as the result of the brilliant leadership of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran this system does not regard women as an accessory and looks at women as useful members of society. Today the Muslim Iranian woman, in addition to the fact that she is a boss in the house, is in various other professions and she also engages in various social and political activities.

Referring to the efforts of the government to eliminate the difficulties in the Muslim Iranian society, he said: Our people should be vigilant so that no harm and damage is done to the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and through unity and solidarity they should support the system.

At the end of his speech, Emami-Kashani called on the officials of the country to keep God in mind while carrying out their duties. He called on them to make efforts to remove the difficulties of the people.

Recall of Charge d'Affaires From Beirut Planned

WA181201990 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] After the disclosure of the role of Hoseyn Niknam, Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, in managing the Iranian terrorist networks in Spain, Cyprus, Turkey, and France, the Iranian Government is looking for a new person to take over Niknam's responsibilities. According to AL-DUSTUR's sources, Niknam's withdrawal from Beirut has become certain, and he will return to Tehran,

immediately upon the selection of his successor, who is expected to be an intelligence official belonging to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Homayun Amir-Khalili Appointed Envoy to Bulgaria

LD1801120390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] At the proposal of the minister of foreign affairs, and with the approval of the president, Homayun Amir-Khalili is appointed ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bulgaria.

Romanian Envoy, Commerce Minister Discuss Trade

LD1801173690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The Romanian ambassador to Tehran, in a meeting with our country's commerce minister today, reiterated that Romania's new officials will pursue the previous policies based on the expansion of commercial ties and increasing commercial exchanges with Iran, thue serving the interests of both Iran and Romania. In this meeting, our commerce minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will also extend the necessary cooperation to those countries which, in maintaining mutual respect and interests, wish to establish commercial relations with Iran. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will remain firm in implementing the contracts signed with Romania, and also continue to pursue mutual objectives.

USSR To Supply Technology for Alumina Factory

LD2812204889 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Iran and the Soviet Union inked a letter of understanding last night for building a factory for producing alumina powder from nepheline ore at Zargah mine near Sarab, East Azarbayjan Province.

The letter was signed by Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals 'Ali Kolahduz and visiting Soviet Deputy Metallurgy Minister Ayuditov [namess as received] here.

According to the letter the Soviet Union would supply necessary technology and machinery for the factory. The factory's product, alumina nitrate will substitute the import of materials required for the production of aluminium. Iran imports nearly 100,000 tons of alumina annually to feed the aluminium factories in the country.

Tehran-Moscow cooperation in this regard would practically start from the 1st of January, Kolahduz told reporters. He said Zargah mine contains several hundred million tons of nepheline, and expressed hope that the first product of the factory would reach the aluminium factories in the next three years.

Meanwhile, a cooperation protocol is to be signed between Iran and the Soviet Union today for increasing the capacity of the Esfahan steel mill from the current 800,000 tons to 1.9 million tons.

TEHRAN TIMES on Moscow's Mediation Offer

NC1801112690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Moscow and Its Mediatory Bid"]

[Text] Moscow has proposed to mediate between Tehran and Baghdad to take the latters' stalled peace talks out of bedlam. The Soviets have sent the feelers to the Iranian government during a recent visit to Moscow of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi.

In their first reaction to Moscow's intermediary bid Tehran and Baghdad leaders have ostensibly already voiced their agreement. United Nation's Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is about to take a tour of Moscow, has also welcomed the proposal.

By and large it is only logical for Iran to benefit from all diplomatic channels to end the peace negotiations' deadlock with Iraq. This Iran is of course doing out of sincere considerations for peace not for itself alone but for the whole region.

The Islamic Republic has witnessed that some Security Council members, the U.S. and Britain in particular, have virtually blocked the way to peace and security in this part of the world. By preventing the implementation of the peace Resolution 598 out of their own vested interests, these countries are to blame for the persistence of no-war-no-peace situation in the region. They have actually kept the UN chief from effecting an implementation plan he designed to take the peace talks off the ground a long time ago.

But now given Moscow's mediating bid, the question is whether Moscow is a suitable venue for lifting the snags from the road to Iran-Iraq peace?

For a fact the USSR has been the main arms supplier to Iraqi regimes right through the years since the coming to power of 'Abd al-Karim Qasim in 1958. This of course has given Moscow a rather considerable political leverage in Baghdad.

As far as Tehran-Moscow relations are concerned, though they have at times been quite tortuous with a lot of ups and downs since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the two capitals have developed quite friendly ties especially at present.

Now given this backdrop the Iranian officials, it might be suggested, should take notice of a number factors in this connection.

Before launching any new round of talks with Iraq, and Moscow as its venue, Iran should be assured of Soviet

Union's influence over Baghdad. Although Iraq has heavily depended on the USSR for arms, this should not go unheeded that the West too has gained a considerable foothold in Iraq over the past decade. In other words, the West is not likely to allow the USSR to score a big diplomatic gain by solving Iran-Iraq peace problem.

It is also a must that the Soviets express their stance toward internationally recognized Algiers Accord that is the framework for any talks on border lines between Tehran and Baghdad.

Also, Moscow's mediation should by no means be taken as a course out of the Resolution 598. This should be explained to all international circles, prior to negotiations, that Moscow's presence in the talks is only to expedite the UN sponsored resolution. As such, the presence of the secretary General Perez de Cuellar is a must in any negotiation that might be held between Iran and Iraq in Moscow.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Urges GCC To Rectify Policy

NC1101073090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "What the Cooperation Council Should Do To Rectify Past Positions"]

[Text] The heads of the six member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] met last night in Muscat, the Omani capital.

The Arab world's problems in solving the Palestinian and Lebanese issues, the shared problems faced by the council members, and the efforts to turn the Iran-Iraq cease-fire into a strong peace agreement are among the topics on the summit's agenda.

During the war, the PGCC always sided with the Iraqi regime and supported the instigator of the imposed war. The council was either unwilling or unable to take brave and just stands and defend what was right and thereby serve the entire region.

Throughout the imposed war, the PGCC paid lip service to the need to end the war and establish lasting peace and calm in the region in the propaganda sphere, but was the ally of the aggressive Iraqi regime in the political sphere.

Even though the events after the establishment of the cease-fire must have made the council members aware of the true nature of the issue and provided a good opportunity for them to understand realities, nevertheless it sometimes seems that some of the regional governments have not been able to make good use of these opportunities. They continue to maintain the same wrong views and positions.

The wrong position adopted by the council's information ministers on the issue of the Arvand River showed that the council needs to be more reasonable and must do its best to understand realities; otherwise, the council will continue to pursue its past wrong policy which will have repercussions for its members.

The council should not act this way; it should not entertain hopes that such a position can have positive results. Reasonable people must show greater responsibility and try to rectify past mistakes and take the first steps toward adopting a correct position that will serve the region's interests.

The issue is clear. Throughout the war, the PGCC called for the establishment of lasting peace and calm in the region. The cease-fire is now in place but there is no sign of peace. The PGCC should feel responsible for having encouraged Iraq to continue its policy of stalling at the peace talks through its endorsement of the Baghdad regime's wrong positions. It should feel responsible for not having done its best to assess the realities of the situation accurately and to make policies conform with these realities.

The council members should know that maintaining wrong policies will not solve any of their problems. They should know that endorsing the Iraqi regime's wrong positions not only will not achieve anything for them but will further harm their credibility and encourage Saddam to exert more pressure to gain support for all his policies of blackmail. This in turn will confront the region with the danger of plots.

The fact that the efforts to turn the cease-fire into a strong peace pact are on the summit's agenda shows that the heads of the council's member states are aware of the importance of establishing and maintaining lasting calm in the region. The important issue, however, is what they will do. Will they continue the wrong stance that was adopted by their information ministers or will they choose the correct path and take the region's interests into consideration? They should know that lasting calm and peace cannot be achieved by supporting the instigators of the imposed war.

Commentary Warns of Coming 'Storm' in Jordan

NC0801204390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Dec 89 p 11

[Unattributed political commentary: "Jordan: Storm Warnings"]

[Excerpts] According to news agencies, Amman and some other Jordanian cities were sites of widespread demonstrations and clashes between the people and law enforcement forces.

In Amman, some of the demonstrators shouted anti-U.S. slogans at the U.S. Embassy and clashed with the police. In these demonstrations, which according to many correspondents sometimes culminated in violence, people shouted slogans against the Egyptian and Saudi regimes and declared their support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied areas, now in its second year.

The recent elections in Jordan were the first in 22 years. Their outcome—despite the fraud that took place—was contrary to the wishes of King Husayn. The election of supporters of the pro-Islamic groups to the Jordanian parliament could not be prevented, and 80 deputies and 32 opponents of the government's present policies were elected.

King Husayn of Jordan has been grappling with economic problems in the past few years and following the end of the Iran-Iraq war, the Jordanian economy plunged deeper into stagnation. Jordan's foreign debts have also increased and, at the same time, the assistance from the regional Arab countries has dwindled considerably in recent months as a result of regional actions and reactions. [passage omitted]

The per capita income of the Jordanian people is much lower than that in more destitute countries of the region, and this has occurred when the Jordan regime has borrowed $8 billion for the people. Jordan and the court of King Husayn have difficult days ahead, and the beginnings of a rising storm in the region is in the process of engulfing Jordan as well—a storm which may well roll up the scroll of the life of the Jordanian monarch.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Following Khomeyni Policies

LD1801192990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] On the blessed anniversary of the birthday of the great sincere one, Her Holiness Zahra, peace be upon her, and the anniversary of the birthday of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the governor generals, the commanders, and the security forces from all over the country presented themselves at the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They placed wreaths at his tomb, paid their respects, and renewed their allegiance to the honorable leader and to the blessed ideals of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

In the ceremonies, with the participation of Interior Minister Nuri, Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Jamarani, and a group of the country's officials, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in his remarks referred to the anniversary birthday of the great sincere one, Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, peace be upon her, and the anniversary birthday of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. In addressing the participants he made the following remarks [read by announcer]:

We should take the imam's ideals as our guide and endeavor toward the realization of his eminence the imam's thoughts and ideals. He added: Attention should be paid to the imam's thoughts in the political, economic and social dimension. We should take the imam's economic policies as a model.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also said: Our people should preserve their readiness and our nation should not give in to the pressures of the global arrogance. Our people and officials should insist on the imam's "Neither East nor West" policy. If we ignore that, we are no longer following the line of the imam.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to the burdens suffered by the imam during the time he was a theology student, and said that his eminence the imam, from the beginning of the struggle, was under attack by the shah's regime and the clergy unjustly; he suffered many burdens.

Majles Deputies' Request for Immunity Questioned

PM1101154790 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 27 Dec 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Judicial Immunity for Deputies and Their Responsibility Toward the People"]

[Text] When someone sees the power within himself to become a representative of the people and volunteers to become the deputy for a sector of the population, he in effect accepts an enormous responsibility which comes with heavy expectations.

We have discussed in another editorial the qualifications necessary for someone consenting to become a deputy, including knowledge of politics and world affairs, qualities such as bravery, clear and straightforward speech, independence of thought, and finally, service to his constituents. As a result, deputies are expected to think of the people's interests in all their decisions. They must in effect put themselves in the people's place.

We heard recently that the deputies have brought forward a motion once again to ask for judicial immunity for themselves. Such a motion was earlier rejected by the Council of Guardians, and this proposal is now before the Expediency Discernment Council. There is no problem with the act itself, but rather it is the circumstances that have caused the subject to be brought about that raise the questions.

It seems that there are perhaps issues in the provinces which cause the deputies to feel insecure. By relying on the proposed bill mentioned, they want to create judicial immunity for themselves so that they will be safe from the possible results of factionalism in some of the judicial offices in the provinces.

It is surprising that the deputies are worrying abut their own safety instead of trying to remedy the situation as a whole. If there are such issues in some of the judicial offices, why do they not try to confront them? These faults, of course, also apply to their constituents. Do the deputies not feel responsible for their constituents? Do they only want to find a solution for themselves?

The existence of such a fault is dangerous in any judicial system, and it cannot be a matter of concern only for the deputies. The general public will also suffer as a result of

such unreal judicial bodies. Instead of making protective shields for themselves, the deputies must confront the problems in the provincial justice systems in a fundamental way so that there will be no need for them to have judicial immunity.

This issue could strengthen within the people the unpleasant feeling of getting farther and farther away from their deputies, and of course this is something that is not worthy of a representative of the people. The whole philosophy behind choosing deputies is for them to see to the problems of their own areas, and for the people who vote for them, who send them to the Majles, to safeguard their rights.

Mariyam Behruzi Gains Majles Seat in Recount

WA1901140390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 89 pp 2, 15

[Text] Tehran (City Desk)—Mrs. Mariyam Behruzi, one of the candidates running in the Majles mid-term elections held in the country last Dec. 15 has won her bid for the Parliament seat.

Behruzi was on a four-candidate ticket for the capital. Her victory as Tehran's third deputy in this round of elections was determined yesterday after a recount of the votes which showed she had reached the quorum. The polls were rechecked by the Interior Ministry and the Supervisory Board for the Mid-term Majles Election.

According to the same report, the race for the fourth of the capital's Majles seats will now be limited to Habibollah, Asqar Owladi and 'Abol Qasem Sarhadizadeh. Tehran has 30 seats in the Majles four of which had been vacant. Two of the vacant seats were won by Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi-Kermani and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi on Dec. 15.

*Report on Proceedings of 5 Dec Majles Session

90OI0086A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Dec 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Division:

The Majles session was held yesterday morning presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat presiding. In this session, after the recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs Eftekhari, representative of Fuman; Farzpur, representative of Astara; Mo'azenzadeh, representative of Kerman; and Shahriari, representative of Tangestan, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the deputies' memos to the executive officials of the country were read and the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was an examination of the legislative proposal concerning the implementation of the law on the procedures to implement Article 49 of the Constitution, which was ratified.

The second item on the agenda was top priority for the bill on combining the law enforcement agencies, which was not ratified.

The last item on the agenda was the legislative proposal of the cooperative sector of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (returned from the Council of Guardians), the continuation of the discussion on which was postponed to the next session.

Following are the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies' memos, and details of the proceedings. [passage omitted]

Mohammad Farzpur, Deputy From Astara

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mohammad Farzpur, deputy from Astara, who said in his speech: Obviously, proper, scientific administration and planning are the main factors in progress. He referred to the five-year plan of the country and said: We must be alert. If this plan is unable to move the Iranians towards production and more hard work and on the whole the nation and the country towards social and economic development, the revolutionary goals of the people shall not be realized.

He added: Essentially all the social, economic, and cultural affairs must be revamped. We accept that every political and social change and ultimately every revolution is divided into two phases. We must accept that we are now in the phase of construction and development. Now is the time for legislation, the phase for making wise decisions, for construction, the period to end destruction and chaos.

It is time to end lawlessness and disorder. It is time to attract creative forces with initiative, stability, and wisdom and time to negate any kind of tedious and repetitive slogan. It is no longer time to fight high prices and inflation, to retread the twisted path of the past once again!

Mr Farzpur said, pointing out that if incentives for hard work and production are not provided, it is irrational to expect to solve even the existing simple problems: It is clear to everyone that all the intellectual views are not represented in the Majles, the government, or other organizations. There are other intellectual views outside our country as well. There are those who, like we, feel responsible for the independence of the country and the survival of the Islamic Republic, and support the progressive goals of the revolution for the prosperity of this great nation. Without any narrow-mindedness or party and group prejudices, we must provide the necessary social and political conditions to attract this useful force and make use of healthy intellectual views. We must open the arms of the homeland to any Iranian who is motivated to serve this country and accept that the Islamic homeland belongs to all the people. Our problems will not be resolved and the high peaks of prosperity and glory cannot be conquered except through national unity.

The deputy from Astara then reminded the executive officials of the country to dismiss the incompetent, inexperienced, opportunistic, and disruptive administrations, demanding that the grounds be prepared to attract competent forces.

He pointed out: The problems that govern the educational system cannot be resolved merely by creating a change in the educational system of the county, by uncontrolled expansion of the educational establishment and quota-based admission of students while ignoring the need to improve the quality of education, by providing professors and educational tools but not providing for the needs of students, nor with the weakness in the educational administration, and the scientific capability of the country will be harmed.

He added: In implementing Resolution 598, maintaining the validity of the 1975 Algerian agreement, and imposing pressure on the enemy, an active diplomacy must be started. Questioning the international assemblies and applauding the services rendered to the world assembly since its establishment despite the influence of the oppressors while, at the same time, ignoring its resolutions will not solve the problem.

In conclusion, Mr Farzpur, the deputy from Astara, also made other reminders to the executive officials of the country in connection with his constituency.

Mo'azenzadeh, Deputy From Kerman

Mr Mo'azenzadeh, deputy from Kerman, was the third pre-agenda speaker. Honoring 16 Azar [7 December], he referred to responding to the questions of the young generation in all areas and said: Today, the situation, whether we like it or not, is such that we must understand our special place in the world and move on the basis of our ideological principles to promote this position. This important matter eventually requires the efforts and initiative of all thinkers and intellectuals to remove the ambiguity from the ideas of pure Islam. Today we must respond to many of the questions of the young generation of our society and the Muslim revolutionary generation of the world. This response is urgent, both in theoretical areas and in the field of action and precise implementation of theories. Clarification of the theories on important issues such as the system of government in the society, the economy, the place and value of the individual in the society, the issue of freedom and ideas, and many other similar issues about which ambiguity still exists. As an individual who allows himself to speak for the young generation of the revolutionary period who gained experience in the years following the revolution, I will speak of the intellectual problems of this generation. The thirst for thought and ideas of the children of the revolution cannot be responded to with a few dry sentences, especially a generation that has gained its awareness from the most stormy and tumultuous period in the history of a nation and whose alert conscience has forced it to prove the truth of its convictions by sacrificing its entire being on the battlefield.

Today, you cannot speak within the framework of a few ambiguous words instead of speaking of freedom and clarifying ideology, making it limited to general dos and don'ts. Islamic economy and conforming it to social justice while looking at development and its theoretical relations with existing economic theories and offering models is something that a conscious individual in this society demands of intellectual leaders.

Unfortunately, we see that political movements that claim to possess it are incapable of expressing it and in fact lack it, only engaging in negating the opposite movements, and do not even realize that this negation inflicts a serious blow on the unity of the society as well as the regime.

He then referred to the five-year plan and said: I suppose that the offered plan has serious problems, which I hope will be eliminated in the related discussions and the rendering of opinions by the committees and representatives. The greatest problem is the lack of unified thought and a clear framework. In this plan, the present trend of our sick economy, unfortunately, has not changed dramatically, and its structure remains untouched.

The current budgets also have continued their upward trend, and the illogical relationship between the current and developmental expenditures remains as before. He added; No clear strategic program has been offered for development, even though it does contain strong points, especially in the agricultural sector, concerning which the issues are viewed realistically.

Mr Mo'azenzadeh emphasized: In any case, the implementation of this plan will undoubtedly require national will, a will which requires the unity, efforts, coordination in constructive criticism, and serious presence of the people on the political and economic scenes; the transformation of the consumption culture to a production culture; fighting the destructive economic sectors; and the reform of the administrative system of the society.

The speaker then asked the people of Kerman, in the same manner that they have so far guarded the values of the revolution and have proven their serious presence on all political scenes, to participate this time as well in the mid-term elections of the Majles. In conclusion, the deputy from Kerman thanked the great leader and speaker of the Majles for helping the earthquake victims.

Seyyed Kamaleddin Shahriari, Deputy From Dashti and Tangestan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Shahriari, the deputy from Dashti, Tangestan, and Deyr, who described discussions about the five-year plan very constructively and critically and emphasized: The ratification of this plan will determine and clarify the direction

of the regime during the next few years, during the period of reconstruction, the period that will more than anything else determine our destiny.

He then added: There is one issue with regard to all this planning, which is, in order to devise a realistic plan and achieve the goals stated in that plan, the plan must be based on the analysis and evaluation of the operations of the past. In other words, the more precisely we evaluate the past and the operations of the past few years, the better we will be able to plan and succeed in achieving the goals established in the plan.

He added: If we compare the trend of growth and distribution of the urban and rural population with the oil revenues and the gross national revenues as well as production, especially in the agricultural sector, and look at the population statistics for 1335 [21 March 1956- 0 March 1957] and 1365 [21 March 1986- 0 March 1987], in 1335 [1956-57], the total population of our country was 19 million people, of whom 13 million were in rural areas. At the present, our population, based on the 1365 [1986-87] census, is 50 million. We had 23 million rural dwellers and 27 million urban dwellers. In other words, the 13 million rural dwellers of 1335 [1956-57] reached 23 million, an increase of about 78 percent. But the urban population of 1335 [1956-57] had reached 27 million in 1365 [1986-87]. In other words, it had increased by 35 percent [as published]. This shows the distribution of the population in the country. That is, the urban population has increased at a rapid rate. On the other hand, our rural areas have had a low population growth. When we compare these figures with the statistics on production in the agricultural sector, we know precisely that the population movement from the villages to the cities is a negative movement in terms of agricultural production. Gradually, as the rural population has decreased in proportion to the urban population, production in the agricultural sector and the availability of foodstuff have also decreased, whereas according to the statistics of the Central Bank, in 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] and before we were self-sufficient in the production of the agricultural sector and even had a surplus. From that year on, our agricultural production has decreased and we have been unable to respond to the needs of the population.

He then added: Our agricultural production has decreased and we have been unable to respond to the needs of the population.

We have had a production deficit even though during the period 1335-1338 [21 March 1956- 0 March 1960] only 10 percent of our gross national revenues were from oil, and the major revenues were from agriculture and other sources. From 1338 to 1351 [21 March 1959- 1 March 1973], our oil revenues reached from 10 percent to 20 percent of the total revenues of the country. However, due to increased production in addition to the uncontrolled increase in prices, in 1351 [1972-73] and 1352 [1973-74], within 1 year, the ratio of oil revenues in the gross national revenues reached from 20 percent to half the total revenues of the country.

He pointed out: This bitter past and the bitter experience that we have had in the area of dealing with villages and production in the agricultural sector must today be the foundation of our production and the center of our attention in the plan.

The deputy from Dashti and Tangestan said in conclusion: Unfortunately, there has been no serious movement to return to the villages, to give services to the villages and attract the villagers back to the villages as there should be to ensure agricultural production. We absolutely must pay more attention to it than we do. If we are unable to invite and attract the rural population back to the villages to engage in agricultural production, unfortunately, even if we have production in other sectors, ultimately we will have to buy agricultural products. Dependency in the agricultural sector is the best kind of dependency [as published]. A human being can be content in any area and can become independent through contentment and hardship. Unfortunately, if we are unable to reach self-sufficiency in agriculture, we shall remain dependent.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles was the examination of the report of the judicial and legislative affairs committee regarding the legislative proposal on the implementation of the law of procedures to implement Article 49 of the Constitution. Single article. The courts related to the implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution are responsible for examining the cases of hoarders, price hikers, and smugglers in accordance with the law on the procedures to implement Article 49 of the Constitution and for taking steps to confiscate property that has been acquired through hoarding, price hiking, smuggling, and other illegal means, primarily to be returned to the original owners and otherwise in the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note 1: Revenues from the implementation of this law shall be collected by the related organization and deposited without being used in the account of the general treasury.

Note 2: In regard to the above law, the method in Article 5 of the law on procedures for the implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution shall be enacted.

Note 3: Should guild units which present essential rationed goods to the public hoard such goods and not give them to the people, in addition to being punished, their share of non-rationed goods shall be stopped for 5 years.

Note 4: The judicial branch is responsible to report to the Majles on the implementation of this law once every 6 months through the minister of justice.The single article and its notes were put to a vote and ratified.

Second Agenda Item

The second item on the agenda was the removal of top priority from the bill to combine the law enforcement agencies, which was put forth by a number of representatives.

In regard to the removal of top priority, Mr Akrami spoke in opposition and Mr Mozaffarinezhad in support of it. The removal of top priority was put to a vote, but was not ratified.

Last Agenda Item

The last item on the agenda was the report of the special committee on the legislative bill of the cooperative sector of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (returned from the Council of Guardians).

Amendments of the Committee in Conformity With the Opinion of the Council of Guardians

Article 2 was amended as follows: Companies and establishments formed and registered in keeping with the regulations of this law shall be recognized as cooperatives. On Line 3 of Article 3, the phrase "related organization" was deleted and replaced with "the Ministry of Cooperatives." The above amendments were put to a vote and were ratified. The continuation of the discussions were postponed to the next session. The Majles will have an open session this morning.

Deputies' Memos to the Country's Officials

- Mr Qoreyshi, deputy from Khomeyn: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education in regard to eliminating the shortage of surgical equipment in Khomeyn.
- Mr Akrami, deputy from Semnan: To the minister of culture and Islamic guidance in regard to preventing the printing and publication of obscene books and preventing the naming of establishments and stores with meaningless names.
- Mr Faregh, deputy from Dezful: To the minister of roads and transport in regard to expediting the construction of the third bridge of Dezful. To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education in regard to providing medicine for the city of Dezful.
- Mr Ruhanizadeh, the deputy from Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh: To the minister of culture and higher education in regard to revising the classification of Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh for the university entrance examination.
- Mr Nariman, the deputy from Babol: To the minister of culture and higher education, in regard to revising the classification of Babol in the University entrance examination.
- Mr Reza'i, deputy from Andimeshk and Shush: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, in regard to providing the health and medical cadre for the treatment centers of Andimeshk; and to the minister of interior in regard to appointing a governor for Andimeshk and Shush.
- Mr Kazemi, deputy from Khalkhal: To the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, in regard to the creation of an office of Islamic guidance in the city of Khalkhal; and to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, in regard to strengthening Channels 1 and 2 in the Khalkhal area.

Agriculture Minister on Fixed Price Policy

LD1001122690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Essential agricultural products in the cultivation years March 1989-March 1991 will be purchased by the government at a guaranteed and fixed price without any increase in prices for consumers. According to the Central News Unit, this morning at a gathering of reporters, Agriculture Minister Kalantari announced this news. He said that following the decisions adopted by the Majles on guaranteed and fixed rates for agricultural products starting next year [22 March 1990], the production of the byproducts of wheat, barley, corn, onions, potatoes, varieties of peas, beans, lentils, varieties of high-yield rice grains in Mazendaran and Gilan Provinces will be purchased from farmers at guaranteed rates calculated at the average total price of each product in the country. Sugarbeet, soya, sunflower seeds, cotton, wool and green leaf tea will also be purchased by the government at a fixed price; that is, the average price of the total price of each product taking into consideration a just profit. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Kalantari said that these guaranteed fixed prices have been set so that if the production of any product increases for any reason, the government will be responsible. This will prevent the farmer from incurring losses and prevent economic uncertainties. The government will purchase the product at guarranteed prices as soon as they are harvested.

Industries Minister Reviews Development Plan

LD1001195290 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—The government will adopt and implement a "strategy" for replacing imports with home-made products, during the upcoming 5-year development plan, said the industries minister today.

In his interview with the print and broadcast media, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh said that about 4.1 billion dollars will be invested in the industries sector during the development plan.

Deputy minister of industries in charge of trade and business affairs Al-e Eshaq [name as received], who was also present at the interview, said that in the next five years, the Industries Ministry expects to earn as much as nine billion dollars on export of finished products. He said at the moment his ministry earns a merely 100 million dollars on annual exports.

The official said the goal of improving exports will be an incentive to improve also the quality of home-made products.

Elsewhere in his interview, Ne'matzadeh said that by the end of the national development plan one large paper-manufacturing mill will be built in Mazendaran Province and another in Khuzestan Province, along with five or six smaller-capacity mills to increase paper production to 700,000 tons yearly from the present 250,000.

The minister said, another project now being studied provides for manufacturing about 5,000 tons of watermark paper with a capital investment of 40 million dollars.

In the second half of March 1990 a cement factory in Orumiyeh with a daily capacity of 2,000 tons, several textile mills, pharmaceutical mills, and serum-production laboratories which are affiliated to the national industries organization will become operational.

Health Official on Low Number of AIDS Patients

PM1001123590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Coinciding with International AIDS Day, the third scientific conference on AIDS opened this morning at the Allameh Amini auditorium of Tehran University with a speech given by Dr Mohammad Reza Zali, deputy minister of health and medical education in charge of research.

According to our correspondent's report, groups of doctors, teachers, students, and interested parties took part in the 1-day event. During his speech Dr Zali gave a detailed history of the AIDS virus and added: This disease has appeared only in the last decade, but medical research indicates that it has indeed existed for at least the last 3 decades. Although in Western countries it is mostly drug addicts and homosexuals who get the disease, this virus is not unique to the West and is found elsewhere in the world.

He then talked about the economic and cultural factor and said that the use of blood and its by-products are also instrumental in the spread of the disease. He talked about the situation of the disease in our country and added: Fortunately, because of our high moral standards and Islamic beliefs, the number of people infected with the AIDS virus is very low in this country. It is necessary under the present conditions to inform the people through open and frank discussion and correct education in order to stop the spread of the disease in the country, because there are people in Iran who could spread the virus.

Dr Zali concluded by asking the committee to combat AIDS to compile exact figures of the people infected with the virus, to do research on the disease, and to raise the people's awareness of the subject.

According to this report Dr Bijan Sadri-Zadeh then gave a speech on the AIDS virus was passed on from infected mothers to their children at birth, drug addicts, through sexual contact—especially illicit—and through the use of blood transfusions, through needles, toothbrushes, and bloody razor blades.

He added that if the necessary precautions are not taken throughout the world, the number of people infected with the AIDS virus will rise from the present 5 million to a figure three times that in the 1990's, and the numbers with the disease itself will increase from 178,000 to 9 times that figure.

The conference continued with speeches given by Dr Rakhshandeh, 'Abolhasan Farhudi, Dr Minu Marz, Dr Huri Rezvan, Dr 'Abolhoseyn Hakimi, Behruz Naba'i, and Dr Taqi Cheraghchi, who talked about various aspects of the AIDS disease.

Khamene'i Faction Continues Attacks on Montazeri

LD1701153990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Attacks against Ayatollah Montazeri and his supporters by the agents of the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction continue. Ha'eri-Shirazi, Friday imam of Shiraz, and Musavi-Jazayeri, Friday imam of Ahvaz, voiced threats against Ayatollah Montazeri and his supporters. In Shahrud also, rent-a-crowd marches have been organized against him. Government newspapers, by dropping the title of ayatollah from Montazeri's name, described his fate as similar to that inflicted on Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. A few days ago, Reyshahri, prosecutor general of the regime, who a short while ago was appointed as head of the special clerical tribunal, openly threatened the supporters of Ayatollah Montazeri. The intensification of the attacks against Ayatollah Montazeri follow his re-emergence on the political scene and his opposition to the policies Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction.

Esfahan Mayor Dismissed for Defending Montazeri

LD1801173790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The mayor of Esfahan was also dismissed from his job. Following the dismissal of Karbaschi, the governor general of that province, the major is is the second official released in connection with people's demonstrations against Khamene'i's holding the position of vice regency of the jurisconsult and in defense of Ayatollah Montazeri's remarks against government policies.

'Humiliating' Treatment of Montazeri Noted

TA1801180590 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] A report from Qom indicates that the Revolution Committee Guards in Qom, while detaining and taking Mr Montazeri away, prevented him from wearing a

turban and forced him to go to the committee wearing a night cap. This occurred while a large number of Qom citizens witnessed how the guards, who until Farvardin [month beginning 21 March] of this year were calling Mr Montazeri the eminent jurisconsult and the imam's successor, treated him in a humiliating manner.

This report says that following Mr Montazeri's detention, a large number of Qom theological center teachers and scholars, including Ayatollah 'Allameh Reza Sadr, Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi, and other clergymen, gathered in front of Qom's revolution committee. At this meeting, Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi made a passionate speech and on behalf of the Qom theological center requested the release of Mr Montazeri, who was finally freed at 2200 last Friday. Mr Montazeri intended to leave Qom for Najafabad that night but the guards prevented him from going.

It is being said in this connection that Ayatollah Montazeri's grandson, a Tehran University student and the son of Mohammad Montazeri; and Hadi Hashemi, Montazeri's son-in-law and the brother of Mehdi Hashemi; and another of Mr Montazeri's relatives were arrested last week.

Toilers Radio Comments on Attacks on Montazeri

LD1901022590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Dear listeners, in recent days the attacks against Ayatollah Montazeri by officials committed to the leader-president clique have gained new dimensions in the media and in Friday prayers. Following the demonstrations in Qom and a number of other towns, it is now reported that even in a small city like Shahrud, a march against Ayatollah Montazeri has been organized.

The organizers of this battle have gone so far as to resort to insulting remarks. Not only have they removed the title of Ayatollah from Montazeri's name, but also they use such titles as the deposed official, the dismissed deputy leader, the American agent, and the one who disturbs the system, and so on. The previous vague and indirect intimidations have turned to open and direct threats.

For example, Ha'eri, the Friday imam of Shiraz, taking a position against Ayatollah Montazeri, announced: The American hand, whatever sleeve it comes from, wanting to break the unquestionable sanctity of the system in the world, should be confronted wherever it may be. Or Musavi-Jazayeri, Ahvas Friday imam, approving the insulting actions of those connected to Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i in Qom, called on the officials of the judicial power to punish the so called people who engage themselves with accusations, whichever position they may hold.

Along the same lines, Reyshahri, the regime's prosecutor general, who was appointed as the head of the clergy courts in connection with disruptions in theology schools and the recent events, made some remarks in Esfahan on various degrees of criticism which takes a position against Ayatollah Montazeri in an obvious way.

In order to create a legal excuse for future government measures against any kind of criticism, he said that criticism in society as the well-intended criticism or fault finding criticism is aimed at weakening the system. Following that, a RESALAT article called Ayatollah Montazeri's criticism of the government an example of the second kind of criticism, the fault-finding one.

But as the dimensions of the battle expand, the explanations and the justifications of it become more difficult for the regime's officials.

It is not accidental that the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper, which explains the positions of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's factions, has tried in one of its articles to show the increased power struggle within the Majles, and outside it, as a sign of democracy and freedom of expression.

But the fact that one person's criticism—a person who has lost his position and is able to disrupt the peace of mind of officials—is in fact a sign of the fear of the officials of the regime of Montazeri's new presence in the political arena and a result of that policy, particularly under conditions in which the overall economic, political, and social crisis have threatened the very foundations of the regime.

The helpless rulers of the Islamic Republic know well that the creation and the activities of any center which criticizes the government from within or around it, and takes a position against the government policies and its measures, is also able to reveal the nature of those running the regime and to increase people's lack of confidence in them.

For that very reason, officials want to press their point from the start, resorting to angry reactions and wrathful and furious actions. But it is necessary to pay attention to another point, which is, although the hue and cry that has been created is a sign of fear by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction, for the formation of a larger protesting movement inside or around the ruling system, but it can also be misused by the officials of the regime as appropriate psychological and propaganda grounds for putting their threats into practice.

Therefore, repeated reference to the fate of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari can also be a sign of covert arrangements which the rulers would like to use on Ayatollah Montazeri, sparing themselves the horror of larger protests.

The ones whose hands are totally stained with the blood of the country's freedom seekers and daily create an atmosphere of fear and horror under a different pretext, to make their ugly rule last, will also have no fear in resorting to rough oppressive measures against those protesting forces from within or around the ruling system.

On that issue, there is no shortage of experiences and examples. It would be appropriate that those experiences be considered in any action against the ruling faction's policies which oppose any national or popular movement.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Regrets 'Malicious' Foreign Report

BK1801155390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has regretted that despite categorical denials over the past few days, some newspapers are repeatedly publishing a malicious foreign media report that alleges the prime minister has charged the Punjab chief minister with training Sikhs. The spokesman reiterated that the prime minister has never met the author of the article that was published in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and that was used by a foreign broadcasting organization for its vilification campaign.

Allegations To 'Eliminate' Punjab Leaders Denied

BK1901101190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] An Interior Ministry spokesman has described as totally baseless allegations of some Punjab opposition leaders that the federal government has hatched plans to eliminate certain religious figures and some of its own party leaders and then blame the Punjab government for these acts to pave the way for the imposition of governor's rule in Punjab. The spokesman said these allegations are part of the disinformation campaign launched by the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, has said that the remnants of the martial law are still trying to destabilize the democratic system in the country, in the same manner these opportunists had used the tactic of alliances to destroy the democratic system and to bring in dictatorship in the past. He was commenting on Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif's statement in Kanganpur in which he had allegedly stated that the [Islamic Democratic] Alliance will change the course of history.

Bomb Blast at Islamabad Airport; No Casualties

BK1801141490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded at the Islamabad Airport this afternoon. The bomb was placed in a jeep parked outside the airport building. A Civil Aviation Organization spokesman told Radio Pakistan that the driver of the jeep, an Afghan national, has been arrested.

The blast destroyed two vehicles parked nearby, but there was no loss of life.

Sri Lanka

Amnesty International 'Terrorist Movement'

BK1801085990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 18 (AFP)—Two senior ministers here Thursday called the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International a "terrorist movement" and accused it of funding subversion in Sri Lanka.

"I charge the Amnesty International (AI) as another terrorist movement. I have told them openly. In Amnesty International there are some terrorist sympathisers and terrorists," Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said at the weekly cabinet press briefing.

"They are wolves in sheep's clothing, (it) comes to various countries and does the most diabolic things to destabilise our governments," he added.

The minister was responding to questions about whether Colombo would allow the AI to enter the country following Wednesday's allegations by opposition leader Sirtima Bandaranike about human rights violations in the troubled island nation.

"It (AI) is another terrorist organisation. Say that I said it. Let the world headlines say it," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He accused a local human rights lawyer, Prince Gunasekera, who he said had links with AI, of being "hand-in-glove" with People's Liberation Front (JVP) rebels held responsible for some 4,000 killings since 1987.

Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the government had reason to believe that AI funds were being used for propaganda and legal work of the JVP, which is leading a violent anti-government campaign.

The two ministers lashed out at Mrs. Bandaranaike for her appeal to international donors to bring pressure on Colombo to check what she describes as large-scale violation of human and fundamental rights.

Mrs. Bandaranaike told the foreign correspondents' association on Wednesday that "if donors sent observers here the killings will stop and it should be done soon.

"The killer squads are known to the government. That is why we accuse the government of being responsible....

"A great many countries and institutions have given unprecedented aid to Sri Lanka in the past decade. We are thankful to them and we want them to continue this aid. We need it.

"Don't you think that donors should also insist that we should take every step to ensure that democratic norms are followed and violation of human and fundamental rights should not be permitted," she asked.

Mr. Wijeratne described Mrs. Bandaranaike's appeal as an "unpatriotic" move and said it was designed to put further burdens on the people.

"Of course aid donors are concerned about human rights violations, especially instances such as genocide and anti-democratic measures. Sri Lanka's aid donors who have given so generously will be of course monitoring our actions," he said.

"They understand fully the need for effective action to counter insurrection and attempts to topple by force a democratically elected government," Mr. Wijeratne added.

He said Mrs. Bandaranaike was "not an angel," alluding to her crushing of a JVP-led insurrection with the loss of thousands of lives and subsequent emergency rule in 1970-77.

Mr. Wijeratne charged that Mrs. Bandaranaike and her Sri Lanka Freedom Party did not care "two hoots" for the development and uplifting living standards of people.

Premadasa: Colombo Ready To Host SAARC Summit

BK1801145990 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] President Premadasa has informed the visiting SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] secretary general, K.K. Bhargava, that all arrangements are in hand for the SAARC summit to be held in Colombo in April. The secretary general was further informed that Sri Lanka proposed to the prime minister of Pakistan the 19th, 20th, and the 21st of April as convening dates for the heads of state to meet. Pakistan is the current chairman of SAARC. The SAARC summit will be preceded by meetings of foreign ministers and officials.

Mr Bhargava called on President Premadasa at the presidential secretariat yesterday. The SAARC secretary general indicated to the president that since these days fell within the period of Ramadhan, it may become necessary to (?propose) alternative dates. The president assured Mr Bhargava that the change of dates would pose no problem to Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka is fully supportive of the objectives of SAARC and is willing to host the SAARC summit this year.

The president mentioned that since the Indian Peacekeeping Force will be completely withdrawn from Sri Lanka at the end of March, there was no obstacle to holding the meeting in April as earlier planned or even at a later date.

The secretary general thanked the president for his assuring support to SAARC and for the concrete actions that have been taken by Sri Lanka to strengthen SAARC since its inception.